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THE NEW POLITICS OF PRAYER

New column by Chantal Hébert
METROVIEWS

Supreme Court decision affecting Ottawa METRONEWS

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POLLEY TAKES ON LITTLE WOMEN
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Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015

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NOT A SENSATIONAL START

Montreal Canadiens' Lars Eller and Ottawa Senators' Kyle Turris battle for the puck at centre ice during first-period playoff action in Montreal on Wednesday night. The Habs won 4-3. More coverage, News and Sports. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Sub-human' conditions

Lawyer says atmosphere at jail is 'toxic'

Prisoners and their supporters need to keep the Ministry of Correctional Services' "feet to the fire" to eliminate overcrowding and "sub-human" conditions at Ottawa's Innes Road jail, says a local human rights lawyer.

"It's a toxic environment. It's understaffed and there's people who are triple- and double-bunked," said Paul Champ Wednesday evening at a public forum in Ottawa on crowding conditions at the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre (OCDC).

In 2013, Champ helped Christina Jahn come to a human rights settlement with the ministry after she spent seven months in solitary confinement at the OCDC.

Jahn was thrown into segregation instead of receiving treatment for mental illness and alleged she was deprived of basic hygiene and cancer medication, among other things.

She was awarded an undisclosed sum of money and the ministry agreed last month to 10 legally binding commitments, including mental health screening for all female inmates and treatment for female inmates.

The Criminalization and Punishment Education Project, an advocacy group formed by Carleton University and the University of Ottawa, organized the forum for about 200 guests. Organizers read disturbing, personal accounts from former prisoners' experiences.

"You can sleep in front of the metal sliding door or you can sleep with your head two feet from the communal toilet with no lid," said Justin Piche, on behalf of a former prisoner identified as Eric.

The ministry's commitment to improve conditions lends, especially for prisoners with mental illness, according to Champ.

"We don't have to treat them like sub-human beings," he said.

JOE LOFARO/METRO WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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GATINEAU

Woman charged with killing baby

A Gatineau woman hung her head Wednesday afternoon while charges of manslaughter and aggravated assault were read in the death of her six-month-old daughter.

Martine Soucie, 22, was arrested on Tuesday and appeared at the Gatineau courthouse on Wednesday. After pleading not guilty, she was released on bail for $500, with her next day in court scheduled for June 15.

The case has been investigated since Nov. 16, when police and emergency-service workers responded to a call that a baby was lifeless in her Gatineau residence.

Despite resuscitation measures, the infant was proclaimed dead at Hull Hospital.

According to Gatineau police, the major crimes unit consulted forensic and medical experts to establish required facts before Soucie's arrest.

"The expertise showed that the baby suffered trauma in various episodes of her life," Sgt. Jean-Paul Le May told reporters on Wednesday. "Some trauma was not related to the death of the baby."

Le May would not comment on the specifics of the trauma but said that would be presented in court.

NICHOLAS HODGE/FOR METRO

CONDITIONS

The DPJ, protective services in Quebec, have taken care of Soucie's other children since shortly after the death.

While on bail she will have a curfew from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. and will not be allowed within 100 metres of two specific individuals.

Sgt. Jean-Paul Le May of Gatineau police informs reporters Wednesday about lengthy abuse. ANDRZEJ TERRENCE/FOR METRO

Investigators at the apartment building where Connor Stevenson, inset, was killed Tuesday. MIKE CARROCCETTO/FOR METRO; INSET: FACEBOOK

'The best person I have ever known'

HOMICIDE

No suspects yet in stabbing death of teen

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

Like many other love-struck teenagers, Kaitlyn Abbott set her Facebook status to "married" to her boyfriend.

Her Facebook profile is filled with photos of Abbott and her "amazing man," Connor Stevenson.

"I'm going to love you until the day that I die," the young woman wrote last July.

But Stevenson's life was suddenly cut short Tuesday evening in the stairwell of a Jasmine Crescent apartment building.

The 18-year-old Gloucester High School graduate was stabbed multiple times, shortly after 5 p.m. He was rushed to hospital, where he died.

"I don't even know where to begin. My son Connor was murdered today, and I wanted to tell everyone that he was the best person I have ever known," wrote Stevenson's mother, Laurie, on Facebook after midnight Wednesday.

Ottawa police have confirmed it is the second homicide of 2015 and that they are seeking witnesses.

Police have not identified a suspect.

On Wednesday, a resident outside the building at 2020 Jasmine Cres. said there had been a small memorial in the party room of the building.

Stevenson's friends and former classmates expressed their grief on social media by sharing high-school memories and photos of him in his rugby uniform.

"He always tried to make people laugh," Gloucester grad Sarah Yassin told Metro.

"We talked all the time; it's just kind of scary how someone you used to know is gone like that and in such a terrible way."

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Watson opts for moment of silence instead of prayer

COUNCIL

Mayor's decision comes after Supreme Court ruling

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

It was a silent start to Ottawa city council on Wednesday morning.

Councillors did not hear a prayer following a Supreme Court of Canada ruling earlier that morning.

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson said council would suspend the tradition pending a review of the decision. Councillors had a moment of silence instead.

In a unanimous decision earlier on Wednesday, the country's top court said reciting a Catholic prayer at council meetings infringes on freedom of conscience and religion.

The ruling puts an end to a nine-year legal battle that began with a complaint filed by atheist Alain Simoneau and a secular-rights organization against Saguenay Mayor Jean Tremblay.

THE WORDS

What was the prayer? "Almighty God, let us work together to serve all our people." It was then repeated in French.

"I always thought that our prayer was very respectful of all religions and cultures," Watson told reporters. "It was non-denominational, but the court has ruled and we will take the ruling seriously."

In previous years, Ottawa city councillors recited the Lord's Prayer. But in 1998, the Ontario Superior Court ruled the tradition infringes on the Charter's right to freedom of religion.

> **I do not agree with it. I don't think there was harm in doing the prayer.**
> Coun. Bob Monette

Ottawa councillors switched the practice to a non-denominational prayer.

Orléans Coun. Bob Monette said he did not agree with the Supreme Court decision to end prayers at council.

"If any member of council doesn't feel comfortable saying it they shouldn't have to say it," he said.

Kanata North Coun. Marianne Wilkinson said the ruling is "changing our entire history in many respects."

Mayor Jim Watson said council would suspend the tradition of saying a non-denominational prayer before a meeting and would, instead, have a moment of silence. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

"Canada was founded as a democratic country, but it was a Christian country at the time," she said.

The Supreme Court ruling had an immediate impact in several cities and towns across the country on Wednesday, including Levis, Que. and Windsor, Ont.

> **"We are very much now a society that doesn't try to hurt anyone's feelings, and I can live with that."**
> Coun. Marianne Wilkinson

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities said the issue hasn't been a significant one for members.

WITH FILES FROM HALEY RITCHIE AND THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRIME

'Cat thief' returns toboggan

Social media users wouldn't let an alleged toboggan theft slide, and now it's been returned.

On Monday, Crystal Therrien, the owner of the Cheshire Cat Pub in Carp, posted a Facebook message for two men that she says took a Steam Whistle branded toboggan from the pub's front entrance. The men were mocked and a still image from security camera footage was included.

The post, which demanded the return of the toboggan and a donation to the charity Tysen's Mission to a Million, has now been shared more than a thousand times.

The Facebook post was updated on Tuesday night to say that the toboggan has been returned and a $100 donation under the name "Cat Thief" has been donated to the charity that supports Make-A-Wish Eastern Ontario.

Staff at the pub believe the men have learned their lesson and are considering raffling off the toboggan to raise money for Tysen's Mission.

NICHOLAS HODGE/FOR METRO

The alleged thieves stealing the toboggan. FACEBOOK

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Coun. Tobi Nussbaum's motion to stop corporate and union donations was shot down on Wednesday. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Corporate donation ban nixed

CITY HALL

Council defeats motion 19-5

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

After a long debate, Ottawa councillors shot down a ban on corporate and union donations on Wednesday.

Rookie Coun. Tobi Nussbaum, who represents Rideau-Rockcliffe, put forward a motion asking Queen's Park to review the ban. That motion was defeated 19-5.

Gloucester-South Nepean Coun. Michael Qaqish seconded the motion. Councillors David Chernushenko, Jeff Leiper and Catherine McKenney also voted in favour.

Under the current election donation rules, some people can donate twice — once as an individual and once as a corporation or union. Nussbaum said that's unfair.

McKenney agreed.

"I don't ask to be able to donate twice as much as anybody else and I expect that to be a level playing field for everyone," she said.

Leiper called it a "common sense motion."

It's worth noting that Nussbaum's motion alone would not have enacted ban on corporate and municipal donations, but was part of a two-step process.

If it had been approved — and if Queen's Park also OK'd the ban — then it would have to come back to council for consideration.

When asked if this quashed all public debate on the issue, Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson said Nussbaum could have brought the motion before a committee first, where there's public discussion.

"There were good arguments, obviously, on both sides, but I think by and large the vast majority of our council felt that what's the point of asking for the power if you're not going to use the power," he said.

Before voting against the motion, Coun. Rick Chiarelli argued that Ontario has a provincewide law on municipal donations and that an Ottawa ban would "fragment" that law.

However, as he noted, Toronto enacted a bylaw in 2009 banning all corporate and union donations.

MONEY TALK

Coun. Jean Cloutier said the current rules in place are fair and allow anyone to "shine a bright light" on corporate and union donations.

Council grounds airport signage battle

An Ottawa airport signage battle has been grounded for now.

Councillors voted to temporarily re-erect seven Park'N Fly signs on city property on Wednesday, after staff removed them.

The private company has parking lots beside six airports across the country. It's also the Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier Airport's parking competitor.

"I think the bigger issue was that we had one company, namely the airport, that had illegal signs up telling another company to take their illegal signs down," said Mayor Jim Watson.

> **We had one company, namely the airport, that had illegal signs up telling another company to take their illegal signs down.**
> Mayor Jim Watson

However, it's still unclear as to whether the Park'N Fly had permission to erect 19 directional signs on public property. They have been there for 17 years, but city staff could not find evidence the signs were allowed.

Watson told reporters that staff "jumped the gun" on taking those signs down and that council should have debated the issue first.

Coun. Riley Brockington put forward a motion asking for staff to develop a "wayfinding signage" report that would be brought to council. But, in the meantime, that seven of the signs be reinstalled.

As Coun. Keith Egli suggested, the signage problem points to the "wider issue" of whether the city should allow private signs on public land.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

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Riders bracing for delays

PUBLIC TRANSIT

Construction signals bus changes for east-enders

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Transit riders travelling to and from Ottawa's east end will feel the brunt of service delays during light rail construction starting at the end of June.

But the city is spending $74 million on more buses, operators, staff and temporary stations to soften the blow of the light rail transit construction.

Starting on June 28, the Transitway will be closed between Blair Station and Hurdman Station. It will remain closed over the next three years until the LRT opens in May 2018.

The vast majority of transit users — 84 per cent — will not see an impact on their service, according to city officials.

An OC Transpo bus approaches the Rideau Centre via Mackenzie King station on Wednesday.
ANDRZEJ TERRENCE / FOR METRO

But for the other east-end travellers, here's what else you need to know:

- Transitway buses will be rerouted to new bus-only lanes along Regional Road 174 and Highway 417.
- Hurdman, Train and Blair stations will be relocated temporarily.
- Cyrville is the only station that will close.
- Twelve more buses will be on the road this fall.
- Express routes will bypass the Train, Hurdman and Lees stations, including a new Route 91.

3

This will be the third Transitway closure since the LRT construction began.

- Route 95 will see the longest delays (about six to 16 minutes longer than usual, not including collisions or weather issues).

There will be three other closures: Merton Street to Empress Street (December 2015), Laurier Station to Hurdman Station (April 2016) and Tunney's Pasture Station to Merton Street (June 2016).

There's no word yet on how construction will affect ridership levels, but OC Transpo general manager John Manconi said he hopes riders will hang on and see the light at the end of the construction tunnel.

"There is a state-of-the-art, world-class LRT waiting for them," he said.

Check out your routes at octranspo.com.

IN BRIEF

OC Transpo sees 78 per cent approval rate

And the survey says ... OC Transpo riders are (mostly) still happy. According to the city's 2014 customer service survey, 78 per cent of OC Transpo riders ranked the service as "good" or "very good."

That's a slight dip from the previous year — an 80 per cent approval rating — but transit officials say the overall trend is upward since the 2009 bus strike.

Ninety per cent say they feel safe and secure on the bus. That figure has stayed stable over the past four years.

But more men feel safe waiting for a bus at night (71 per cent) compared to women (54 per cent).

The city is working with women's groups, including Ottawa Hollaback!, on transit safety.

OC Transpo employees did not do as well on the survey. Just 69 per cent of people say the employees care about customers.

The city surveyed about 2,000 people between Nov. 1 and 23, 2014.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

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Mike Duffy at the Ottawa courthouse on Tuesday, where fuzzy Senate rules were once again the main legal topic of the day.
SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Duffy trial may not end before vote

POLITICS

Judge can't say if it will wrap up in time for Oct. 19 election

The trial of suspended senator Mike Duffy may drag past its scheduled end date in June and on into the summer, the fall federal election campaign or even beyond into 2016.

"At the rate we're going" the trial will need more than the 41 days set aside in April, May and June, Judge Charles Vaillancourt suggested Wednesday, urging lawyers to think about scheduling more time to finish.

By day's end, as Vaillancourt left the Ottawa courthouse he was asked by reporters if he is confident the trial will wrap up before the expected fall election Oct. 19. He began to reply: "I haven't — " when another reporter interjected: "Or this year even?"

"No comment," he said. "I don't know how long it's going to take because I don't control the number of witnesses or how long it takes with each witness. So we'll just have to wait and see."

One of the Crown attorneys arguing the case against Duffy on charges of fraud, breach of trust and bribery has other trials beginning after this one.

Upon leaving court, Duffy's lawyer Donald Bayne said only that he can clear more time, but he wouldn't speculate on the trial schedule. Asked if he thought it could be done by voting day, Bayne replied, "I certainly hope so."
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

WEDNESDAY'S TRIAL DETAILS

Lawyer Donald Bayne drew from a senate human resources clerk the admission that Senate officials allowed senators like Mike Duffy to skirt the policies and rules for contracting for goods and services.

By the time Bayne was done with her, Sonia Makhlouf had essentially walked back all her testimony for the Crown that Duffy's research and office budget would not have covered things such as photo frames, makeup services, and payments to subcontractors for speech writing, media monitoring and consulting on virtually any subject of interest to the senator.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CRIME

Warrant issued for bank robbery suspect

An arrest warrant has been issued for a man wanted in an Ottawa bank robbery.

Police say a man wearing a disguise entered a bank in the 500 block of Montreal Road near Centre Street on March 23, gave a note to an employee that demanded money and alleged he had a gun.

No gun was seen, police say, and the suspect fled with an unknown amount of cash. He was last seen leaving on foot along Montreal Road.

On Wednesday, police announced an arrest warrant had been issued against 23-year-old Mattieu Lance, in relation to the robbery.

Police believe he is somewhere in the National Capital region. He is described as a white man about five-foot-eight with a slim build.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Ottawa Police or Crime Stoppers. METRO

Mattieu Lance is wanted by Ottawa police. HANDOUT

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A group of Senators fans cruise down Elgin Street, where the Sens Mile returned Wednesday on the first night of the Stanley Cup playoffs. ANDRZEJ TERRENCE/FOR METRO

Good times on Sens Mile

FANS

Elgin Street comes to life as Ottawa opens NHL playoffs

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

While many fans might call themselves Sens lovers, nobody means it more literally than Josh St. Louis and Evelyn Pinate, who ended up dating after watching an Ottawa Senators game together.

“The atmosphere is just insane; the last 30 games have just been insane. At this point, extend the hand to the bandwagon fans.”
Josh St. Louis

“Sens Mile is where this happened,” St. Louis admitted Wednesday afternoon on, you guessed it, Sens Mile.

“I can’t believe you just said that,” laughed Pinate.

Despite both wearing team jerseys, one admitted to being a fairweather fan.

“I’m just a fan because of him,” admitted Pinate. “But it’s been a really exciting last few games with the are-they-going-to-make-it or are-they-not.”

By 5 p.m. on Wednesday the bars on Elgin Street weren’t packed, but cars were honking, pints were pouring, flags were flying, and Senators jerseys, baseball caps and other red garments were out in full force.

Despite all the local pride on display, interloping Montreal Canadiens fans wearing red, blue and white were also claiming spots along the mile.

Asked if he was worried about being outnumbered in Ottawa, Danny, a strapping Habs fan who preferred not to give his last name, made it clear he wasn’t going to be putting away his jersey come the 7 p.m. puck-drop.

“Outnumbered? Have you ever been to a game at the stadium? Let’s talk outnumbered there. When Montreal plays here, there are way more fans,” he said. “Also, would you be worried if you were as big as me?”

Sens fans Evelyn Pinate and Josh St. Louis on Elgin Street Wednesday. ANDRZEJ TERRENCE/FOR METRO

Bob Conway has been here since the team started, and he said everybody gets along on the mile despite team rivalries.

“I’ve seen lots of good times. I like to go out to pubs to socialize. I like the camaraderie. People are so kind and friendly and there’s no broken hearts,” he said, explaining that a Habs fan had just come over to give him a handshake. “In sports there’s no fighting; we’ll leave the fighting on the ice.”

Peter Abraham, a loyal Sens fan who has owned the Sir John A. Pub on Elgin Street for seven years, agrees: The more hockey fans, the better.

“Hey, we support everybody, and you know what? It brings everybody together,” he said. “I like to see as many Canadian teams in because it makes it fun. It’s a nice story out in Calgary and Winnipeg.”

“The timing couldn’t be better because the weather is great, people are excited and even if you’re not a true hockey fan, it brings everyone together.”
Peter Abraham

Abraham opened his patio Wednesday and hooked up an outdoor television in anticipation of the crowds. He expects the place to be packed throughout the series, and while it’s good for business, mostly he likes the spirit of the playoffs.

“It’s been such a long cold winter and to have a big event like that, it makes you proud to be a Canadian and proud to be from Ottawa,” he said.

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Feds urged to hike own minimum wage

LABOUR

ACORN makes voice heard at Parliament Hill rally

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

The lowest wages in Ontario will see a small increase this year, but members of the Ottawa and Gatineau branch of ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) say the federal government should be raising its own minimum wage.

The group held a rally Wednesday in front of the Prime Minister's Office to demand a $15 per hour minimum wage for that all workers and contracted employees in the federal government.

"People are not having enough money to pay for food and rent and hydro because all of those things are going up a lot faster than minimum wage is," said Mavis Finnamore, chairwoman of ACORN's Ottawa South chapter.

She and 60 about others chanting and carried flags and homemade signs at the rally.

ACORN, which campaigns for economic justice across the country, was one of the groups that successfully lobbied to raise minimum wage in Ontario to $11.15 this fall. They are now focusing on federal wages in a lead-up to the October election.

Grace Iyabosa, who currently works on call at an Ottawa daycare, said she came to the rally because she struggles to pay rent and care for her two kids on minimum wage.

"I don't want my kids continually on welfare, I want my kids to be good citizens, that's why I'm struggling," she said.

Ottawa's Raging Grannies also attended the protest, and shared a song they wrote about food banks and living on minimum wage in Canada.

Members of the Ottawa and Gatineau branch of ACORN rallied Wednesday demanding higher minimum wage for federal workers and contract employees. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

CRIME

Four people charged after home invasion

Ottawa police have laid charges in relation to a recent home invasion in the city.

Police were called to a residence in the 100 block of Barrette Street on April 7 at approximately 9:30 p.m. after someone was seen leaving the building with a gun.

According to police, one of the suspects entered the building with the gun, and knocked on the victim's door.

When the victim answered, the suspect demanded money.

When the suspect learned police had been called, he fled the scene empty-handed.

He was later arrested with three other people inside a vehicle that was stopped by patrol officers.

Police say a long gun was seized from the vehicle.

Facing charges that include two counts of attempted robbery and firearm offences are Peter McFarlane, 33, Stephanie Chaput, 26, Christopher Larussa, 28, all of Ottawa, an Cody McRae, 20, of Braeside.

McFarlane is also charged with pointing a firearm and using a firearm in the commission of an indictable offence.

METRO

IN BRIEF

No charges expected after fatal collision, police say

Police don't expect to lay charges after a woman hit by a truck while crossing a street Tuesday died from her injuries.

Ottawa police say the 66-year-old pedestrian was struck around 2:30 p.m. while crossing Ogilvie Road and City Park Drive.

The truck was making a left turn onto Ogilvie Road when the woman was hit, police say.

Paramedics took the woman to hospital, but she died of her injuries.

The driver, a 49-year-old man, wasn't hurt.

The victim's name hasn't been released.

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OLG COMPLAINT

Online lottery tickets come with hefty fee

Peggy Staruch had a surprise this month when she discovered that instead of paying $3 for a lottery ticket, playing her lucky numbers has been costing her $6.50 a pop.

Staruch bought three lottery tickets online in March and early April, using the new Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation website, PlayOLG.ca

The new website was launched in January.

Staruch said she paid $3 per Lotto 6/49 ticket, using her Royal Bank of Canada VISA credit card.

But when she looked at her credit card statement, she saw repeated $3.50 "cash advance fee" charges added on to the original cost of the tickets.

A cash advance typically refers to a person withdrawing cash from an ATM machine on a credit card.

Banks usually charge a fee for the service, which can range from $3.50 to $10.

Staruch said she contacted OLG about the $3.50 surcharge, and a customer service representative said it was imposed by her bank.

She said an RBC representative then told her OLG was responsible for the fee because the company had set up billing as a cash advance.

She added that when you buy lottery tickets in stores, it's not billed that way.

"(The bank) said that's how the OLG site has set up its transactions ... and then OLG, of course, points it back at the banks," Staruch said.

OLG spokesperson Ryan Bissonnette told Torstar that the company does not charge any fees when people buy lottery tickets online, or deposit funds into their online player

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Shoppers line up at a Toronto LCBO — something wine-drinkers will continue to do for the foreseeable future. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Wine law requires time to age

BUDGET PLAN

Beer, however, will arrive in Ontario grocery stores soon

Ontarians will soon be able to buy beer in some 300 supermarkets, but the more complicated expansion of wine sales in grocery stores is going to take longer to uncork, Torstar News Service has learned. While Finance Minister Charles Sousa is unveiling the much-anticipated beer plan in his April 23 provincial budget, sources say wine drinkers will have to wait.

That's because former TD Bank CEO Ed Clark — Premier Kathleen Wynne's privatization czar — is taking a separate look at a wine issue clouded by international trade agreements and other challenges. In the meantime, Clark on Thursday will table his long-awaited report recommending grocery beer sales and the sell-off of chunks of Hydro One, the transmission utility that's worth up to $16 billion.

"Wine needs some time," a senior Liberal official said this week. As first disclosed by Torstar's Martin Regg Cohn last month, Wynne's Liberals will allow suds sale in hundreds of Ontario grocery stores, ending a quasi-monopoly enjoyed by the 448-outlet Beer Store, operated by the foreign parents of Labatt, Molson, and Sleeman.

"I can assure you that change is brewing in Ontario," Sousa quipped at Ryerson University's Digital Media Zone as he revealed the budget date. In the budget, the Liberals are to announce that licences to sell beer in about 300 supermarkets will be auctioned off with no single grocery company allowed to buy more than 25 per cent of them.

The Beer Store will continue to operate — and can serve as a distributor to supermarkets — but will have to pay Queen's Park an annual "franchise fee" of as much as $100 million.

With a $10.9-billion deficit in 2014-15 and plans to balance the books in 2017-18, the government is scrambling for new revenue streams. At the same time, the Beer Store, which declined comment, will be expected to open more shelf space to Ontario's 150 craft brewers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TO NOTE

Independent aid expected
Sources say other measures to help the independent brewers — who now employ more than 1,000 workers across Ontario compared to a total of 2,600 at Labatt, Molson, and Sleeman — will be in Clark's report.

People enjoying last year's food and wine show. CONTRIBUTED

Ditch the taxes for Daiquiris

BACKSTAGE PASS

Big numbers expected for Ottawa Wine and Food Fest

Trevor Greenway
Metro | Ottawa

Ditch the spring cleaning, the garden can wait one more weekend and you still have a couple of weeks to finish those eye-glazing taxes.

Seriously, where else can you get schooled on how to cook a flawless filet mignon, how to perfectly pair wine and how to master a magical mojito?

And the "tssst" sound of cracking a beer is far better than realizing you owe the government one large.

A wiser choice is to give up the housework for the spring edition of the Ottawa Wine and Food Festival — Eat, Drink, Spring — that will likely have hundreds of beer-loving, food-fond dudes and dudettes foaming for more at the Ernst and Young Centre this weekend.

Organizer Joan Culliton is hoping the two-day event sets the pace for the spring and summer Ottawa has been waiting for.

"It's to celebrate spring, but also to take all of what you learned and apply it and create great memories for the upcoming spring and summer season," she says, blooming with the excitement of a sudden spring.

Now, this isn't your typical food festival where patrons with wine-stained teeth stroll around and sip fine vino they will then forget about by the time they stagger home.

No, this weekend's drink fest will give those who pay the measly $20 admission charge hours of lessons on everything from great grilling to magical mixology — tips to impress your friends, rival your neighbours and ultimately make your belly smile all summer long.

And you won't be learning from some guy who's as drunk as you are.

The Eat, Drink, Spring peeps have rallied some notable names to teach us all how to be a bit classier in the backyard.

Bruce Wood from Beau's Brewery and My Catering Group's Derick Cotnam are running the event's BBQ School, where aspiring grill gurus will learn how to cook a pizza, appetizers and a desert on the barbecue.

But the course load doesn't stop there.

Ottawa wine writer Rod Phillips will head up the pairing class and he's bringing a lot of booze with him — 100 of the world's top wines to be exact. Let Phillips tickle your tastebuds with a glassful of grapes and you'll learn how to blow someone's taste buds like he can.

But don't let the event's high-profile celeb list intimidate you into donning your three-piece drinking suit. Culliton calls the dress code "patio-chic," and she wants everyone to feel the warm embrace of a delicious daiquiri.

"It has a real indie feel," adds Culliton.

"It's all about chalkboard paints and graffiti on the ground and barbecues and food trucks."

So, even if your taxes are done and you realized you went out way too much last year, what's one more time, right? It's only 20 bucks.

Here's to spring. Let's hope it stays.

Cheers.

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NORDSTROM

Canada-India relations good: Modi

POLITICS

Nations agree on multiple bilateral agreements

The relationship between India and Canada is now back on track, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Wednesday after signing a number of bilateral agreements, including a deal to buy Canadian uranium to fuel his country's power reactors.

Modi and Prime Minister Stephen Harper agreed Wednesday that the deal is just a first step towards deepening economic ties.

"Canada is a major Asia-Pacific power and should play a more active role, including in regional institutions," Modi said, standing next to Harper, in Ottawa.

Harper agreed: "It's not where we want it to be, but it is growing."

Under the nuclear deal, India will buy more than 3,000 tonnes of Saskatchewan uranium.

The contract with Cameco Corp. is one of a number of agreements announced Wednesday, additionally including pledges to co-operate in the areas of civil aviation, railway transportation and education and skills development, as well as space, social security and maternal, newborn and child health.

"Canada is ready to deepen co-operation with India in science, education, defence and space technology," Harper said, Modi standing alongside.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi walks with Prime Minister Stephen Harper Wednesday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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EDUCATION

Union walks away from contract talks

The threat of a teachers' strike grew larger Wednesday after the union representing public high school teachers walked away from provincial contract talks.

The first school board that could be hit by a strike is in Durham region, east of Toronto, and those teachers will be in a legal strike position by Monday, warned Education Minister Liz Sandals.

> **"I think it would be only prudent for parents to be paying attention."**
> Liz Sandals

"Certainly the fact that they have suspended the negotiations on Wednesday means that the possibility of a strike in Durham on Monday has probably increased," Sandals told reporters. "I think it would be only prudent for parents to be paying attention."

There are both local and provincial rounds of negotiations between teachers' unions, school boards and the Ontario government.

It was the provincial talks with the Ontario Public School Boards Association that the OSSTF announced it was suspending "until the employer gets serious."

Sandals said she'd seen this kind of withdrawal from negotiations before, suggesting it was a bargaining tactic by the powerful teachers' union and predicted they would eventually return to try and reach a new deal.

"I am not taking it lightly," she insisted. "But I also don't think when you have a situation where people indicate they are suspending the negotiations that we should take it as that's the end of negotiations."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TEACHER PAY

No wage increase until deficit is eliminated

The Liberal government insisted there will be no funding for wage increases for teachers or any public sector workers until it eliminates a $10.9-billion deficit.

FINANCE

Auto insurance rates slowly dipping

Ontario's finance minister says auto insurance rates in Ontario have declined seven per cent since 2013 — less than halfway to meeting a Liberal government promise in four months.

The Liberals promised to cut rates by an average of 15 per cent from where they were in the summer of 2013 by this August.

Finance Minister Charles Sousa says he hopes that target can still be achieved and he is "committed" to reaching 15 per cent.

Sousa says provisions in a bill that fights fraud and abuse in the auto insurance system have only recently kicked in and will help achieve further rate reductions.

Progressive Conservative critic Vic Fedeli says the 15-per-cent target was originally promised by the previous minority Liberal government to win NDP support for their budget and they never had a plan for how to actually achieve it.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath says Liberal policies "feather the nests" of the auto insurance industry while leaving drivers to pay among the highest rates in the country.

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TERRORISM FEAR

Two teens to remain in custody: Officials

Two 18-year-olds will remain in custody in Montreal until at least next Monday because authorities fear they will commit a terrorism-related offence.

No charges have been filed against the man and woman, who both appeared briefly in court Wednesday.

Federal prosecutor Lyne Decarie would not comment on the evidence against El Mahdi Jamali and Sabrine Djaermane.

But Decarie described their arrests Tuesday as a preventive measure that is justified "when police have reasonable grounds to fear that a person will commit a terrorist act."

Decarie told reporters she intends to seek peace bonds which will set out conditions the two must agree to.

Marc Giroux, Jamali's lawyer, said outside the courtroom it was the first time he has had to deal with such a case and that the country's police forces have become more sensitive in recent months.

"What's going on in the world, and especially what went on in Ottawa and Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, the police officers are kind of sensitive to that reality and I think it's kind of normal," he said.

"I don't say it justified the procedure but, that being said, the behaviour of the police is representative of the society in which we are living."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ATTACKS

Last year, two soldiers were killed in separate attacks by so-called lone-wolf terrorists.

MIAMI, FLA.

Diplomat's teen son to be tried as adult

A Canadian diplomat's teenage son accused of involvement in a drug-related shootout that killed his older brother in Florida has been charged with murder and will be tried as an adult.

A Miami-Dade County grand jury indicted 15-year-old Marc Wabafiyebazu on first-degree felony murder charges Wednesday.

Wabafiyebazu's defence lawyer, Curt Obront, said his client will plead not guilty.

"We have confidence in the criminal justice system," Obront said.

Wabafiyebazu was arrested on March 30 after the shooting deaths of his 17-year-old brother, Jean, and 17-year-old Joshua Wright. The indictment returned Wednesday charges that Wright and Jean Wabafiyebazu shot each other.

The grand jury also indicted two other young men involved in the alleged drug deal on felony murder charges.

Media reports say Wabafiyebazu, who is being held in juvenile detention, will now be moved to an adult jail to await trial.

Wabafiyebazu's lawyer has said his client — whose mother is Roxanne Dubé, a longtime Canadian diplomat who recently became general consul in Miami — plans to plead not guilty to any charges in the case.

Under Florida law, all suspects involved in committing a crime can be charged with murder if it leads to a killing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Report on CBC's handling of Jian Ghomeshi scandal to be released

The findings of an investigation into how the CBC handled the Jian Ghomeshi scandal are set to be released Thursday.

The CBC commissioned labour lawyer Janice Rubin to conduct the independent inquiry.

She encouraged current and former CBC employees who worked with Ghomeshi to contact her with complaints or experiences regarding inappropriate conduct.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Russia slams Canada's decision to send troops to Ukraine

The Harper government's decision to join a U.S.-led military training mission Ukraine has drawn a sharp rebuke from Russia. Canada is sending at least 200 members of the Canadian Forces to take part in a two-year deployment to improve the combat skills of troops in the country. In a statement, the Russian Embassy in Ottawa calls that "counterproductive and deplorable." It says the move does nothing to resolve the fracturing of Ukraine.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A massive crowd supporting the Nova Scotia Film Industry fills Granville Street in Halifax on Wednesday to protest cuts to the province's film tax credit. JEFF HARPER/METRO IN HALIFAX

Thousands protest cut to film tax credit

FILM INDUSTRY

Nova Scotia government hears from supporters

Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

The sun shone down on a sea of people and flags Wednesday, as thousands took to the streets surrounding Province House in Halifax, N.S. to protest the film tax-credit cut.

Families, film industry workers, popular actors, musicians and members of the public walked and chanted behind the legislature, where a main stage had been set up for speeches and performances.

The rally began at noon, but hundreds had shown up to begin the protest by 11:30 a.m.

People carried signs and banners saying "Save NS Film," "We support #nsfilmjobs" and "Quiet please no Whalen on set."

Industry representatives have been calling for a reversal of the Liberals' budget proposal tabled by Finance Minister Diana Whalen last week, which would change the tax credit to cover 25 per cent of a production instead of the former 50 to 65 per cent.

Actor Jonathan Torrens of Trailer Park Boys and Mr. D was Master of Ceremony for the afternoon. He said he still hopes to work in the province he loves.

Torrens said the Liberal government has "spun a yarn" that they needed to make tough decisions in the 2015-16 budget such as choosing education and health care over the film business.

"We want to keep working in our industry so we can contribute to those vital services — that's why we're here," he said.

Torrens echoed the message from film-industry reps that a change in the tax credit renders it "useless," as Nova Scotia won't be able to compete with incentives offered elsewhere.

"Asking us to simply adapt … is like asking a cadaver to adapt to its new life," Torrens said.

William Shatner even urged the Liberals, via Twitter, to change the tax cut back, and Torrens said Mike Smith of the Trailer Park Boys got a call from federal Justice Minister Peter MacKay, lending his support to the industry.

Smith's Trailer Park Boys costars Pat Roach and Robb Wells also spoke, and Smith said he's still hopeful the government will listen to the outpouring of support from the public.

John Dunsworth, who plays Mr. Lahey on the show, spoke about how hundreds of millions have been generated by the film industry here, leading the crowd to shout "That's not too shabby" along with him.

Realtor Betsy Eldon said she came out to support her clients and friends, since the tax cut effectively kills Nova Scotia's "best ambassador to the global stage."

"It's so short-sighted," Eldon said.

Two members of the Ivany commission, Mark Austin and Susanna Fuller, spoke about how the tax cut flies in the face of the entire report.

Austin said Premier Stephen McNeil is correct in saying the credit still exists, but it's only still there in the way a balloon is there "after it's been popped."

"It's lifeless and empty because of one prick," Austin said.

The rally grew to about 5,000 people as more and more supporters came downtown throughout the afternoon and into the evening.

Screen Nova Scotia chairman Marc Almon told reporters at the rally he is hopeful the huge turnout will have an impact on Minister Whalen.

Both parties are meeting Friday, and Almon said they are hopeful the Liberals will pause the tax credit cut and work towards a "viable" option.

"It's vital and I think they are getting the message," Almon said.

John Dunsworth rallies support from the crowd during a protest on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO IN HALIFAX

Actors in civil war costumes recreate the overnight vigil for President Lincoln in front of the Ford's Theatre, April 14 in Washington, D.C. Thursday marks the 150th anniversary of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.
OLIVIER DOULIERY/GETTY IMAGES

Plot to kill Lincoln had Canada link

HISTORY

Assassin may have planned details during Montreal trip

The assassination of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln is an undisputed cornerstone of American history, but those who have studied the event suggest both the origin and ending of that seminal moment have ties to Canada.

Some historians suspect the groundwork for a plot to kill the U.S. Civil War president was partially laid in a Canadian city that had become a haven for his political foes.

When a simplified version of that plot succeeded 150 years ago in April 1865, they say it was a Canadian who ultimately led the effort that brought down Lincoln's assassin.

Historian John Boyko researched Canada's direct contribution to the 19th-century conflict in his book Blood and Daring: How Canada Fought the American Civil War and Forged a Nation.

He said John Wilkes Booth, the American stage actor whose fame shifted to infamy after killing the president, had long been conspiring to bring down the anti-slavery, union government.

Boyko said Booth's plans almost certainly came under discussion when the actor made a nine-day visit to Montreal in October 1864.

"What Booth was trying to do was put together a team of people that could arrange the kidnapping, later the assassination, of Lincoln," Boyko said in a telephone interview from Lakefield, Ont.

"It was very difficult to do in Washington because there were so many spies for the government. But if you go to where other Confederate spies are, then you know that you don't necessarily have to watch your back like you were in the United States, and that you were going to have the kind of ... people that are going to back you in the enterprise. The best place to do that was Montreal."

History shows that American southerners opposed to Lincoln's policies were able to find safe haven with their northern neighbour, which was officially not involved in the Civil War.

University of Toronto professor Robert Bothwell said both Toronto and Montreal emerged as particular hubs of anti-union activity, adding that Confederate President Jefferson Davis eventually made Montreal his home in the years after his cause was defeated.

Bothwell said Confederate sympathizers likely found pockets of strong support for their views in Canada, where British-born colonialists who shared their pro-slavery sentiments had also developed some anti-American feelings of their own. THE CANADIAN PRESS

COURT OF APPEAL

First Nations can sue without title to land

B.C.'s highest court has ruled that First Nations can launch lawsuits to protect their territory from private parties even if they haven't proven aboriginal title.

The Court of Appeal has overturned a lower court judgment that denied a lawsuit seeking damages for breached property rights on the basis that aboriginals had to first establish their title.

The decision centres around two northwestern B.C. First Nations based downstream of the Kenney hydroelectric dam, operated by Rio Tinto Alcan since the 1950s. The Saik'uz (sigh-CUZ') and Stellat'en (stul-ah-tin) First Nations argue the dam causes nuisance and breaches their rights to the natural waterway that runs through their land.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

AVIAN INFLUENZA

H5 virus could linger in North America

The H5 bird flu viruses crossing North America may be around for a while, avian influenza experts warn.

The coming nesting season, which will see wild birds converge on breeding grounds in Northern Canada and Alaska, could further spread the virus in wild bird populations, and produce a new wave of outbreaks in poultry operations when the birds fly south in the fall, they suggested Wednesday.

It's not completely clear what route the highly pathogenic H5 viruses took to get to North America, though the suspicion is that infected wild birds brought this family of Asian bird flu viruses to North America, perhaps through northern Russia and Alaska.
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Feared drowning of 400 migrants raises alarms

SHIPWRECK

Mediterranean most deadly sea route used by refugees

The feared drowning of 400 migrants in a shipwreck this week in the Mediterranean Sea — one of the deadliest such tragedies in the last decade — raised alarms Wednesday amid an unprecedented wave of migration toward Europe from Africa and the Middle East.

The UN refugee agency expressed shock at the scale of the deaths in Monday's capsizing and renewed calls on European governments to redouble search and rescue efforts, while the International Organization for Migration maintained that the situation had reached "crisis proportions."

The Mediterranean "has emerged as the most dangerous" of four major sea routes used by the world's refugees and migrants, taken by 219,000 people last year, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres said.

The Italian Coast Guard rescued some 140 people off the coast of Libya on Monday and recovered nine bodies, but could see immediately from the size of the capsized smuggler's boat that there had likely been hundreds more on board.

The rescue was made during a five-day surge that saw Italian ships save nearly 10,000 people at sea since Friday — an unprecedented rate in such a short period, according to Cmdr. Filippo Marini, a Coast Guard spokesman. The number is only likely to grow, with summer weather encouraging even more people fleeing poverty and conflict to make the perilous crossing.

Migrants arrive at Palermo's harbour, in Italy, after being rescued at sea, Wednesday. The UN refugee agency says the shipwreck in the Mediterranean this week, in which 400 migrants are presumed to have died, is among the deadliest incidents of the last decade. ALESSANDRO FUCARINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Survivors of Monday's shipwreck reported that as many as 550 people were on board, according to aid workers.

"Of course this is an estimate. No one who travels knows exactly the number. They don't get a ticket that says: No. 550," said Barbara Molinario, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees spokeswoman in Italy.

Accounts by survivors, mostly sub-Saharan Africans, indicate the ship capsized when men on the upper deck rushed to wave down a ship they believed to be a rescue vessel, said IOM spokesman Joel Millman in Geneva.

"Many were waving and gesticulating to get attention and that caused the vessel to capsize, with the speculation that women and children who were below deck were drowned instantly," Millman said.

The rescued migrants arrived Wednesday at the southern Italian port of Corigliano, where aid workers dressed in white protective jumpsuits, gloves and masks worked to process them.

A precise accounting of the number of dead will never be known: The search operation was called off after the recovery of just nine bodies due to the depth of the sea, meaning there will be no body count to verify survivors' accounts, as is nearly always the case.

"For all of these things, we rely on the consistency of the reports we get, but we know these people have been traumatized and through terrible things," Millman said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3,500

The UN Refugee Agency estimates 3,500 migrants died in the Mediterranean last year, up from 600 in 2013. With few bodies recovered, many deaths are never officially confirmed. Instead, their fates are recounted by survivors and, in cases when boats are lost at sea without any rescue attempt, by relatives who report their failure to arrive in Europe.

IRAQ

ISIL fighters seize villages

ISIL extremists launched an offensive Wednesday in Iraq's western Anbar province, capturing three villages near the provincial capital of Ramadi in what was the most significant threat to the city by the Sunni militants to date.

The militants' push comes after ISIL was dealt a major blow earlier this month, when Iraqi troops routed the group from Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown.

Wednesday's fighting could also further threaten Ramadi, 115 kilometres west of Baghdad. Nearly a decade ago, Ramadi was one of the strongholds of the insurgency in the U.S.-led war in Iraq. It now is mostly held by Iraqi government forces, although militants control some parts of it, mainly on the outskirts.

In a dawn advance, ISIL extremists seized the villages of Sjariyah, Albu-Ghanim and Soufiya, which had also been under government control until now, and residents said they had to flee their homes. Fighting was also taking place on the eastern edges of Ramadi, about two kilometres from a government building, they added.

In Soufiya, the militants bombed a police station and took over a power plant. The residents, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared for their safety, said airstrikes were trying to back up Iraqi troops. Iraqi security officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

Around noon Wednesday, the militants opened another front with government troops on three other villages to the northeast of Ramadi, the residents added. An Iraqi intelligence official said the militants were preparing to launch another offensive from the western side of the city, describing the situation as "critical."

ISIL was also trying to take control of the main highway that goes through Ramadi to cut off supplies, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

Defence Ministry spokesman Brig. Gen. Tahseen Ibrahim acknowledged that ISIL militants "gained a foothold in some areas" in Anbar. But he said reinforcements were sent to the province and that airstrikes from the U.S.-led coalition were supporting Iraqi forces. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Turkey lashes out at Pope Francis, EU

Turkey was on the defensive Wednesday, lashing out at both Pope Francis and the European Union's legislature for their descriptions of the Ottoman-era killing of Armenians as genocide.

Turkey's prime minister Ahmet Davutoglu said that the pontiff has joined "an evil front" plotting against Turkey by describing the killings of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians as "the first genocide of the 20th century."

Later Wednesday, the European Parliament triggered more Turkish ire by passing a non-binding resolution to commemorate "the centenary of the Armenian genocide." In a quick response, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said the resolution was an attempt to rewrite history and threatens to harm bilateral relations between the EU and Turkey.

Historians estimate that up to 1.5 million Armenians were killed by Ottoman Turks around the First World War, an event widely viewed by scholars as genocide. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Video shows officer ram suspect with cruiser

A dramatic dash-cam video that shows a police officer ramming his cruiser into a rifle-toting robbery suspect attracted attention across the U.S. on Wednesday. Prosecutors cleared Officer Michael Rapiejko of any wrongdoing in the ramming of the suspect, who survived the Feb. 19 crash. Mario Valencia, 36, apparently escaped major injuries and faces felony charges, including assault on an officer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

U.S., Cuba to hold talks on fugitives

The U.S. and Cuba will open talks about two of America's most-wanted fugitives as part of a new dialogue about law-enforcement co-operation made possible by President Barack Obama's decision to remove Cuba from a list of state sponsors of terror, the State Department announced Wednesday.

Cuban officials and citizens hailed Obama's action to remove the island from the list, saying it heals a decades-old insult to national pride and clears the way to restore diplomatic relations.

State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke said Cuba had agreed to talks about fugitives including Joanne Chesimard, a.k.a. Assata Shakur, who was granted asylum by Fidel Castro after she escaped from a U.S. prison where she was serving a sentence for killing a New Jersey state trooper in 1973. The U.S. and Cuba will also discuss the case of William Morales, a Puerto Rican nationalist wanted in connection with bombings in New York in the 1970s.

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Jamaica's new pot laws begin

MARIJUANA

Possession of small amounts no longer cause for arrest

Drug law amendments that partially decriminalize small amounts of pot and pave the way for a lawful medical marijuana sector went into effect Wednesday in Jamaica, a country where the drug has long been culturally entrenched.

Justice Minister Mark Golding described the reforms as "long overdue" on the Caribbean island, where the drug is revered by members of Jamaica's Rastafarian movement and used regularly by many ordinary Jamaicans. Jamaica's Parliament gave the amendments final approval in February.

The act makes possession of up to two ounces (56 grams) of marijuana, or ganja, as it's known locally, a petty offence that could result in a roughly $5 ticket but not in an arrest or a criminal record.

Cultivation of five or fewer plants by any household is allowed.

And Rastafarian adults are now permitted to use marijuana for sacramental purposes for the first time since the homegrown spiritual movement was founded in the 1930s.

In the late reggae icon Bob Marley's old neighbourhood of Trench Town, a dreadlocked Rastafarian adherent known as Nature enjoyed a pipe stuffed full of "wisdom weed," during a Wednesday morning smoking session.

He said Jamaican police, frequently criticized for heavy-handed behaviour when dealing with young men smoking marijuana, will have to learn restraint.

"The Babylon police used to abuse the Rastaman for smoking the herb. But the times are changing and the agitation has to stop," Nature said in the Trench Town Culture Yard.

A new "cannabis licensing authority" is supposed to regulate the cultivation and distribution of marijuana for legal purposes.

However, it's not clear when a regulated and taxed medical marijuana sector will get off the ground in Jamaica.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

56

Foreigners who are prescribed medical marijuana abroad will be able to pay for permits authorizing them to legally buy up to 56 grams of local weed for medical or therapeutic purposes during their stay.

SPRING A LONG WAY TO TIPTOE Fields of blossoming tulips are seen from an airplane as it flies over Keukenhof, a large flower bulb garden and showcase of the Dutch export product, in Lisse, Netherlands, Wednesday. PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Houston woman's quintuplets all girls

A Houston hospital says a woman has given birth to five girls in what it believes is the first set of all-female quintuplets born in the U.S.

The Woman's Hospital of Texas says it took four minutes for mother Danielle Busby to deliver the babies by caesarean section April 8. The mother had an intrauterine insemination for her pregnancy.

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Man injured after he tries to kill bedbugs

Police say a Long Island man set his rental car ablaze while trying to kill bedbugs inside the vehicle.

Scott Kemery suffered first- and second-degree burns in the incident Tuesday outside a supermarket.

Police say the man poured alcohol over the insects, then sat in the car and lit a cigarette, setting off the blaze.

Detective Sgt. Edward Fitzgerald said that someone told Kemery that if he saturated the bedbugs with alcohol it would kill them.

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A resting place of seven unknown soldiers at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu. The Pentagon will disinter the remains of 388 military personnel killed at Pearl Harbor, hoping to identify them. AUDREY MCAVOY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

ARGENTINA

New questions in death of prosecutor

The discovery of a gun in a storage area raised new questions Wednesday about the death of prosecutor Alberto Nisman, a mystery that has rocked Argentina.

Nisman's former wife, Sandra Arroyo Salgado, said the discovery of the prosecutor's own weapon bolsters her contention that he did not take his own life since he wouldn't have needed to borrow the pistol that did kill him.

The death gun was owned by Nisman aide Diego Lagomarsino, a computer technician who has said Nisman asked to borrow the weapon because he feared for his life and that of his daughters. Investigators say Lagomarsino is not a suspect.

"This changes the investigation," Arroyo Salgado told a local station in talking about the discovery of Nisman's pistol.

Lead investigator Viviana Fein disagreed. "It doesn't change the investigation at all" because it wasn't the weapon that killed Nisman, Fein told another station.

Investigators say they have not yet determined whether Nisman killed himself or was slain by someone else a few days after he had accused the president of covering up blame for the country's deadliest terror attack.

Arroyo Salgado and Fein have frequently fought, via declarations to local media, about the investigation. Arroyo Salgado has criticized the slow pace of the probe, and hired her own forensic team to comb Nisman's apartment. That team concluded Nisman was killed.

Nisman's mother found the gun recently in a storage room with her son's things and told Fein about it late Tuesday during sworn declarations.

Nearly three months since Nisman was found dead Jan. 18 nobody has been arrested.

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'Just waiting for him to come home'

SECOND WORLD WAR

U.S. military trying to identify Pearl Harbor dead

Tom Gray's family has waited for more than 70 years to bring home the remains of his cousin who was killed in the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor.

On Tuesday, they got a step closer when the military announced it would exhume and attempt to identify the remains of almost 400 sailors and Marines from the USS Oklahoma who were buried as unknowns after the war.

Gray's cousin, Edwin Hopkins, of Swanzey, N.H., was a 19-year-old fireman third class on board the USS Oklahoma when the battleship was hit by nine torpedoes and capsized on Dec. 7, 1941. His remains weren't identified and his family was told he was missing.

Grey said Hopkins' mother never accepted that. She believed he had amnesia and he would show up one day, Gray said.

Hopkins' parents, Frank and Alice Hopkins, put his name on their headstone in Keene, N.H,, thinking he would join them one day, Gray said.

They did so, "just waiting for him to come home," Gray said.

Altogether, 429 sailors and Marines on board the Oklahoma were killed. Only 35 were identified in the years immediately after.

> **The families have been fighting to have these sailors disinterred and brought home.**
> Tom Gray

Hundreds were buried as unknowns at cemeteries in Hawaii. In 1950, they were reburied as unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific inside a volcanic crater in Honolulu.

The military is acting now because advances in forensic science and technology as well as genealogical help from family members have made it possible to identify more remains, said Lt. Col. Melinda Morgan, a Defence POW/MIA Accounting Agency spokeswoman.

Officials plan to begin the work in three to six weeks, Morgan said. They aim to identify the remains of up to 388 servicemen within five years.

In 2003, the military disinterred one casket from the Honolulu cemetery, commonly called Punchbowl, based on information provided by Ray Emory, a Pearl Harbor survivor who has spent years doggedly scouring documents.

Many remains were comingled when buried, and the military was able to identify five servicemen from that casket. But the coffin also contained the remains of up to 100 others who haven't been identified.

Grey said his family in 2008 learned from a group of USS Oklahoma survivors that Emory had identified discrepancies in the records of the 22 buried as unknowns, including his cousin.

The 22 are buried in about five graves at Punchbowl, Gray said.

"Since then, the families have been fighting to have these sailors disinterred and brought home," said Gray.

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Consumers acquiring a taste for bug-based foods

FOOD SERVICE

'Entopreneurs' hope to satiate the desire for insect dishes

An increasing number of "entopreneurs" are launching businesses to feed a growing appetite for crickets, mealworms and other edible insects.

These upstarts are trying to persuade more Americans to eat bugs, which can be produced with less land, food and water than other sources of protein.

The United Nations has been promoting edible insects as a way to improve nutrition, reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and create jobs in insect production. At least two billion people worldwide already eat insects as part of their diet, according to the 2013 report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

Inside San Francisco's La Cocina, a commercial kitchen for food entrepreneurs, Monica Martinez empties hundreds of live mealworms, each about two inches long, into a plastic container. She uses chopsticks to pull out dead ones before pouring the squirming critters on a tray and sliding them into an oven.

Martinez started Don Bugito PreHispanic Snackeria to entice American consumers with treats inspired by popular snacks in her native Mexico. Among her specialties are spicy superworms and chocolate-covered, salted crickets.

"The idea is to offer another type of protein into the food market," said Martinez, an artist and industrial designer who launched Don Bugito as a street food project in 2011. "The biggest job that we have to do is to try to get more people to try our foods."

Across San Francisco Bay inside a kitchen in Berkeley, Megan Miller and her assistants shape clumps of orange-ginger cookie dough, carefully arrange them up on a tray and slip them in an oven. The key ingredient: flour made from ground-up crickets.

Miller's startup, Bitty Foods, sells its cricket-based cookies and baked goods online and at upscale grocery stores. Many of its customers are moms looking for a healthy snack for their kids.

"We like to say our cookies have twice the protein and half the sugar of a regular cookie," said Miller, a former journalist and tech entrepreneur.

Miller said insects have a "branding problem," so she's trying to change people's minds and palates by mixing them into familiar foods in attractive packaging.

"We're going to see people start trying insects in a powdered form — incorporated into foods so they're invisible — before people are going to make the leap to eating whole insects," Miller said.

Big Cricket Farms, one of only a handful of North American companies producing crickets for human consumption, is struggling to meet fast-growing demand for the chirping insects, said CEO Kevin Bachhuber, who launched the warehouse farm in Youngstown, Ohio, last year after getting his first taste of bugs in Thailand.

"We're constantly slammed by orders. We simply can't keep up," said Bachhuber. "The speed at which people have been willing to eat bugs is crazy. It's cool."

Oakland-based Tiny Farms is trying to address supply crunch by developing more efficient ways to mass-produce crickets and other bugs. It eventually wants to create a large network of insect farms to supply food makers such as Don Bugito and Bitty Foods.

"The goal is basically to make it easier and cheaper to produce industrial-scale volumes of insects that can be used in food products," said Daniel Imrie-Situnayake, a software engineer-turned-entopreneur. "We're really just scraping the surface in terms of figuring out what the potential is for insects to be part of our food system."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Monica Martinez sorts mealworms prior to baking them on Wednesday in San Francisco.

BEN MARGOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **We like to say our cookies have twice the protein and half the sugar of a regularcookie.**
>
> Megan Miller, Bitty Foods

FREE SAMPLES

Getting a feel for Don Bugito's insect cuisine

Don Bugito snacks are sold online or at a La Cocina kiosk in San Francisco's Ferry Building, where retail workers recently offered free samples of chocolate-covered crickets and spicy superworms.

"No!" said a young boy when asked to try one.

NBA

Wife of ex-Clips owner nets $2.6M

The wife of former Clippers owner Donald Sterling is owed $2.6 million by a woman her husband showered with gifts, a judge ruled Tuesday.

Judge Richard Fruin Jr. awarded Shelly Sterling money that was community property from six decades of marriage that was secretly spent buying V. Stiviano a house, a Ferrari and other luxury gifts.

Stiviano's lawyer had argued the gifts were made when Donald and Shelly Sterling were separated and Shelly Sterling couldn't seek them from a third party.

Attorney Mac Nehoray said he and his client were disappointed in the ruling and would appeal.

The ruling, which will become final in 15 days if there are no objections, comes nearly a year after Stiviano's recording of Donald Sterling making racially offensive remarks bounced him from the NBA and cost him team ownership.

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Rights of nonbelievers count, too

POLITICS

Chantal Hébert

Under the guise of a ruling on the place of the prayer at Saguenay's City Hall, the Supreme Court of Canada has put a mirror up to the face of all Canadian legislators.

The onus for maintaining a secular public space is on them and not on the individuals who toil in the public service and/or who interact with their administrations.

Moreover, neither the preservation of a historical religious heritage nor the notion that a given faith is that of the majority should override the principle of a neutral state.

On that basis, the crucifix is more likely to eventually come down from the walls of institutions such as the Quebec national assembly than kippas, turbans and religious veils such as the hijab are to be banned from Canada's federal, provincial or municipal workplaces.

There is also little in the subtext of the ruling to sustain the federal case for a ban on the face-covering niqab from federal citizenship oath ceremonies.

Wednesday's judgment dealt specifically with the practice of Saguenay's municipal council to open its public meetings with a prayer. The court found that it infringed on the fundamental rights of nonbelievers.

BACKGROUND

The prayer

"God, eternal and almighty, who has all power and wisdom, we are assembled in your presence to ensure the welfare and prosperity of our city. Grant us, we beseech you, light and energy to our deliberations to promote the honour and glory of your holy name and the spiritual and material happiness of our city. So be it."

The immediate consequence of that finding is to force Mayor Jean Tremblay — a devout Catholic who had cast this battle as nothing less than a religious crusade — to abandon the practice.

The same goes for the dozens of municipal councils across Canada that begin their deliberations with a prayer of some sort.

According to the Court, it is not because the text of a prayer is non-denominational that it is non-discriminatory or that it respects the principle of the neutrality of the state.

The recitation of a prayer remains a fundamentally religious act, a fact about which the court had this to say: "... the state may not, by expressing its own religious preference, promote the participation of believers to the exclusion of nonbelievers or vice-versa. (...) A neutral public space free from coercion, pressure and judgment on the part of public authorities in matters of spirituality is intended to protect every person's freedom and dignity, and it helps preserve and promote the multicultural nature of Canadian society.

(As an aside, the House of Commons prayer whose text is identical to the latest version used in Saguenay may be protected by parliamentary privilege.)

The recitation of a prayer remains a fundamentally religious act

This is just the latest chapter in an increasingly heated national debate over the balance between religious freedom and the secular character of Canada's public institutions. In its unanimous ruling, the top court drops more than a few hints as to how it sees the way forward.

Although it refrains from pronouncing on the place of religious symbols on the walls of public institutions, the judgment suggests that their presence — if challenged — is unlikely to be saved by the argument that they reflect a historical or cultural heritage.

That's the rationale most commonly used to defend the crucifix that hangs on the wall of the national assembly.

But perhaps the part of the judgment that will be read most carefully by justice officials and their political masters is the section that spells out that a neutral public space is not one that obliterates religious diversity.

In paragraph 74 of the judgment, and almost as an aside to its core narrative, Justice Clément Gascon writes: "I note that a neutral public space does not mean the homogenization of private players in that space. Neutrality is required of institutions and the state, not individuals."

He adds for good measure: "... a secular state does not — and cannot — interfere with the beliefs or practices of a religious group unless they conflict with or harm overriding public interests."

That amounts to a red light flashing in the face of any government contemplating — as Quebec recently did — the imposition of a secular dress code on its public sector employees.

It also suggests that the federal government, should it want the court to give its ban on face-covering niqabs at citizenship oath ceremonies a green light, may have to come up with a pretty compelling demonstration of the "overriding public interest" served by such a measure.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

"Pity the poor science deniers. They're missing all the fun"

A Russian doctor has found a willing patient for his controversial and experimental head-transplant procedure.

A NASA scientist thinks we're only 25 years away from evidence of alien life, whatever that might be.

And that's only last week's news cycle.

We are living in an unparalleled age of science, and we're lucky to be here. It may have taken 3.3 million years since the first tools were made, according to a new finding out of Kenya, but it feels like science today is moving at warp-speed, and we get to witness all the incredible discoveries.

Nearly 20 million people follow the latest news on Elise Andrew's I F—ing Love Science Facebook page, and she herself is a minor celebrity.

Another famous science evangelist, the astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, has a new late night celebrity talk show, part of his mission "to reach people who didn't know they like science. Or people who knew they did not like science," as he told Metro's Dean Lisk recently.

Amid science's rising popularity, there is rising skepticism. Tyson has butted heads with creationists and climate change nonbelievers on social media, fighting "the rise of anti-science sentiment and the rise of science deniers," a group I feel sorry for, because of the fun they're missing.

And of course, science isn't perfect. Government controls and corporations can influence the outcomes of studies. Researchers can be bullied for controversial beliefs, and there is still no equality of race or gender.

Science also gets a bad rap for not making up its mind. Competing studies confuse us about whether wine is good for us, or running or chocolate or even weed. But its messiness is part of what Andrew loves.

"In science, every question answered leads to 10 more. I love that science can never ever be finished," she said in a 2013 interview.

I love that researchers working on male baldness recently found that skin cells can communicate with each other — through a study on plucking hairs. Science answers questions we didn't even know to ask.

But maybe the best thing about science is how much awe it offers up — images of luminous galaxies or a new ghostly species of fish from the deep sea, bones from prehistoric time or stem cells that grow into human limbs.

According to a recent study out the University of California, that feeling of awe is good for your health, in case you needed another reason to be grateful for this age of science.

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Your essential daily news

Just 10% of film roles in '14 were lesbian, GLAAD says, praising Sandra Oh in Tammy

5 DRESSES TO RIVAL THOSE WORN BY SCARLETT O'HARA

A dress worn by Vivien Leigh as Scarlett O'Hara in 1939's Gone With the Wind is expected to fetch more than $100,000 at auction April 18. We asked five experts to tell us what dress from a film from the past 15 years they think will still be a major draw at the end of the 21st century

HENRIETTA WALMARK/METRO HENRIETTA.WALMARK@METRONEWS.CA

CECILIA TALLIS IN ATONEMENT
KEIRA KNIGHTLEY

"You could fit everything I know about dresses into a tiny garment bag, but if I had to choose a future classic gown it would be the green satin halter dress Keira Knightley wore in Atonement. Knightley can wear clothes — she always looks great — but the sleek design and elegant long train make the dress memorable and majestic."
Richard Crouse, Metro's movie columnist

"Every woman wants to wear a dress like that."
Vanessa Driveness, costume designer for television and film

THE OSCAR STUMBLE
JENNIFER LAWRENCE

"I think modern moviegoers have become more enamoured with what stars wear off-screen rather than on, so I wouldn't be surprised if, say, Jennifer Lawrence's beautiful but stumble-prompting Oscars gown will be better remembered than anything she wore in the Hunger Games films."
Ned Ehrbar, Metro's Hollywood correspondent

MALEFICENT ANGELINA JOLIE

"Disney's female villains have great style. Angelina Jolie's Maleficent is no exception. Maleficent's dark and dramatic high-collared gown with its matching cape and horns exudes power, and even instils fear. It's the look of someone who can hold her own, and reflects the way modern women dress. It's less about conforming, and more about empowerment."
Sabrina Maddeaux, fashion and design writer at NOW Magazine

MINERVA MCGONAGALL IN HARRY POTTER
MAGGIE SMITH

MARIE ANTOINETTE
KIRSTEN DUNST

"A Kirsten Dunst dress in Marie Antoinette. Or a Maggie Smith robe in Harry Potter, because she is such an amazing actress. The Harry Potter films and books have a deep resonance with several generations. It is not so much the dress itself but what it will represent when the era and film is seen years from now."
Alexandra Palmer, senior textiles and costume curator, Royal Ontario Museum

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES; HANDOUTS

South Korea has a reputation for innovative, high-tech beauty products that are changing the face of the industry. GETTY IMAGES

COSMETICS

Seoul is the life of the makeup industry

When the MakeUp in Seoul show hits South Korea this week, the cosmetics world will descend on the Asian hub, which has become a byword for innovation in the beauty sector.

"Korea is the place to be for the makeup industry," says Show Manager Sandra Maguarian, referring to the growing Western obsession with the Asian destination. "It is the new El Dorado. As a cosmetics brand, if you can succeed in Korea you can succeed everywhere."

The main draw is Korea's reputation for innovative, high-tech beauty products that are changing the face of the industry. The hottest invention to date remains the concept of "cushion foundation," which has sold millions of units, revolutionized the way we apply liquid foundation and just been emulated by French company Lancome in the form of its Miracle Cushion Foundation for the European and North American markets.

Scientific techniques when it comes to makeup application are hot news in Korea right now. From natural fibre mascara brushes to lip gloss applicators that diffuse vitamin E with the product or contain anti-bacterial properties, the technology of makeup application is currently a big topic, Maguarian says.

> **"Women use around 20 or 21 products per day, minimum, in their daily routine**
> Sandra Maguarian, show manager of MakeUp in Seoul

But the country isn't just making a name for itself in the cosmetics industry. "Korea is a trend," says Maguarian. "It's a trendy name in music, movies and fashion. You can see the trends in the streets — it's the same thing we saw 20 years ago in London, when the fashion directors would travel over to discover the new trends of the future." But that was in the past. She adds: "Now they are going to Korea." AFP

Ultra-thin ban misses the point, model says

CATWALK CONTROVERSY

Size 6 is most common in France, yet brands hire super-skinny

France's waif obsession means its fashion sector snubs many women with bigger body types, but there is no need for a ban on ultra-thin models, said the patron of a plus-size Paris catwalk show.

"It's a cultural blockage," explained Clementine Desseaux, a 26-year-old French model who lives in New York.

The size 10 brunette gets year-round catalogue and campaign modelling work in the U.S., where she emigrated four years ago, compared to rare jobs in France, as American department stores recognize that most women aren't slim, she says.

"In the United States, it's a market apart. You can make a career as a plus-size model. In France, it's not a career — it's a hobby," Desseaux said. "There are no clients."

But, she added, "it's not for lack of demand: There are a lot of round women here. Parisian women are round, too. You mustn't think they are all small and thin!"

The data back her up. According to the French Institute for Textile and Clothing, size 6 is the most-sold size in France, and 40 percent of Frenchwomen wear size 10 or over.

In an effort to rebalance the scales, Desseaux was the star model at the third Pulp Fashion Week this past Saturday and Sunday in Paris that features larger women on the catwalk.

Twenty-four models walked the podium in some 20 labels to show that fashion is not only for the slimmest of customers.

Such initiatives are also held in North America, Britain and Germany, with greater success.

The organizer of the Paris event, Blanche Kazi, said the refusal by major plus-size fashion labels was the main stumbling block.

"They are the ones who could really shake things up with big sponsor budgets and financial partnerships," she said.

She and the models, though, are determined to instil a sense of pride in plus-size women in France, and to push French clothing stores to cater to larger sizes.

"Here, the image of big-size women is horrible. There's a lot of work to be done," Desseaux said.

For all her morphological militancy, Desseaux is against France's mooted legislation to ban ultra-thin models who are under a certain body mass index (BMI).

The measure was voted on by lawmakers in the French parliament's lower house, and could well become law if the upper house backs it.

Desseaux, like other professional models, believes that the natural thinness of many top catwalk models is being wrongly mixed up with the medical condition of anorexia.

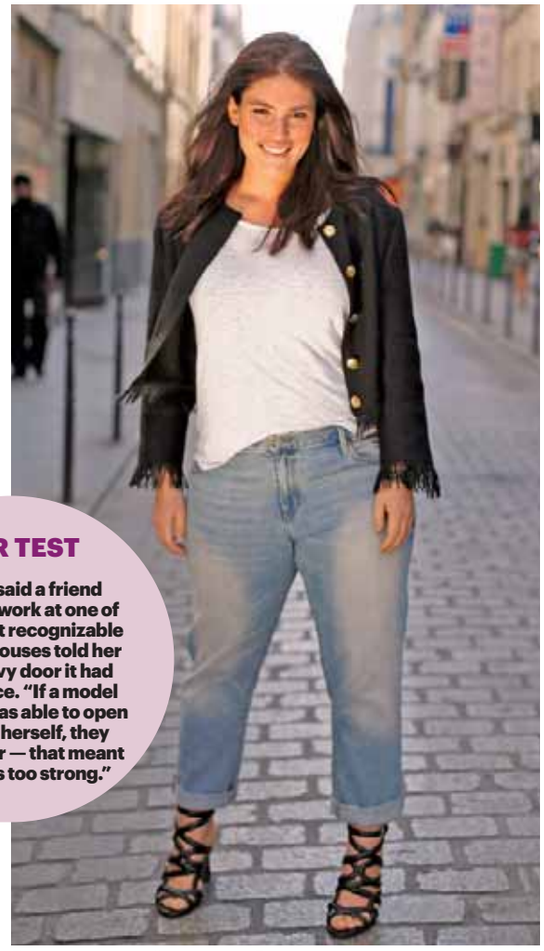
"For me, it's just as dumb to say you're too thin as it is too say you're too fat — it's the same thing," she said.

"The problem is not a model's BMI," she said, adding that a more concrete issue was the insistence of certain fashion labels to hire only underfed models.

AFP

DOOR TEST

Desseaux said a friend who used to work at one of France's most recognizable top fashion houses told her about a heavy door it had at its entrance. "If a model arrived and was able to open the door by herself, they didn't hire her — that meant that she was too strong."



Plus-size model Clementine Desseaux says the practice of hiring underfed models, not a model's BMI, is the problem. AFP

SUNGLASSES

Shades of retro chic ... and the future

The first rays of sunshine have burst through, so the time has come to find the perfect pair of sunglasses to look like a star while still protected from UV rays.

Certain trends last and for good reason — retro being the perfect example since, once again this year, there are plenty of vintage-style models to choose from. Thankfully though, not every brand agrees on this point, giving the holdouts a chance to present their more future-looking wares.

Aviator-style frames

No surprise with this one: Aviators will once again be in style this year. This retro look gets revisited every year, and though brands only barely tweak the ultra iconic shape, they do play with the details (temples, rhinestones, lenses, patterns, materials). Mixing retro with futuristic is a sure way to impress.

Though Ray-Ban is the brand most obviously linked to aviator-style sunglasses, many others continue to release various versions of this legendary look every year. Tom Ford has aviator styles including Cyrille ($535), Charles Round ($320) and Marko ($380).

Back to the '60s

Sunglasses will travel back in time this summer to the 1960s. A round shape will be prevalent in models with different colours, decorated with prints or in a more subdued look.

This trend also marks the return of tortoise-shell-style temples that were so popular in the '60s.

For this season, Faguo has collaborated with eyewear brand Lesca to produce a unisex model in acetate named Gabin, which highlights a spotted pattern. It's a limited series, with only 30 being produced, and priced just under $200. Jérémy Tarian is also offering a retro chic limited edition for around $300, the round Madeleine model, available in red to add some pep to your look.

Futuristic looks

Certain brands have chosen to stand out and present futuristic designs as an alternative to the retro trend. That's notably the case with Dior and the $400 Dior Technologic model, seen in their summer 2015 show, with its pantos shape, metal open-worked frame (available in silver and gold), ultra-flat tone-on-tone lenses and matte black acetate temples. AFP

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The fast lives of female celebs

Amber Tamblyn says Dark Sparkler is partially about "what it's like to be an object for a living."
GETTY IMAGES/FILE

POETRY

Actress Amber Tamblyn's poetry explores six short lives

Actress Amber Tamblyn writes about dead Hollywood actresses in her new book of poems. But Dark Sparkler is more than that.

"The book is about the lives and deaths of celebrity women in a certain way, but it's also about voyeurism, it's also about projection, it's also (about) ... what it's like to be an object for a living," Tamblyn, 31, said in a recent interview.

Each poem is about a celebrity who died before the age of 40, including Marilyn Monroe, Jayne Mansfield and Rebecca Shaeffer.

Tamblyn focused on women because "I understood the lives of these women more personally and in a deeper way."

Dark Sparkler is the third book of poetry by Tamblyn, who starred in The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants films with Blake Lively, Alexis Bledel and America Ferrera.

What impact did writing this book have on you?
Studying your dead peers will get to you. Plain and simple.

Reading autopsy report after autopsy report and listening to interviews....

It's hard not to get obsessed and absorbed into that into the point where you start to lose your mind a little bit.

Why did you focus on this dark topic?
If anything, I wanted other young women to see how much (of) our interior pains are the same and at the end of the day what you feel is what I feel and it's very similar. But often times actors don't really get to express that in a true manner because of the way in which we are promoted or the way we promote ourselves.

Do you think your next poetry will be lighter?
I actually have started working on my next book which will be a collection of love poems, so it will be the opposite. Warm and cozy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EMPTINESS

On why she has a blank page with Lindsay Lohan

"I think that she is sort of categorically one of the largest pop objects we have that we talk (about) and we project our own fears onto and project our own beliefs and judgments onto her and her life. It was my way of putting a blank page both for the media and people who have treated her in that way, but also it's a page ... where I get to say, 'You know, I'm not gonna write this poem for you. I'm not gonna put you in the category where everyone else puts you.'"

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FICTION

Writer goes down the 'Nessie rabbit hole' with latest book

Renowned Canadian author Sara Gruen says it was the Loch Ness monster that led her to her latest story, At the Water's Edge.

In the new book, the Vancouver native — whose hit novel Water for Elephants became a 2011 film starring Reese Witherspoon and Robert Pattinson — writes of a privileged American trio on the hunt for the Loch Ness Monster in Scotland during the Second World War.

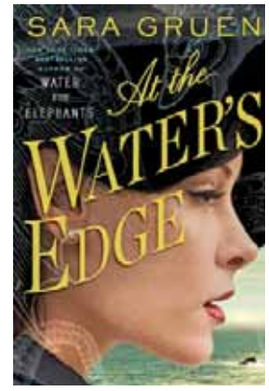
Gruen says she first became interested in Nessie when she visited the Scottish Highlands at age 12.

"Of course at 12, I was sure I was going to see the monster, so I waited and waited and waited — and didn't," she says.

Then about four years ago, she was "procrastinating" on putting pen to paper ("I'm very, very good at writing-avoidance," she says with a laugh) and found an online article about government secrecy surrounding the lake creature of Scottish folklore.

"There was an exhibit in, I think, Edinburgh of declassified documents," she says.

"And one of them was a letter from Scotland Yard that indicated that nobody had any doubt whatsoever that the monster existed, and they were trying to figure out how to protect it from big-game hunters."



That sucked her into a long Nessie surf session online (her "Nessie rabbit hole"), followed by a trip to Scotland to start research for a new story after 2010's Ape House.

At the Water's Edge centres on young Philadelphia socialite Madeline (Maddie) Hyde, her husband Ellis and their friend Hank.

They take a dangerous ship trek to Scotland after a posh New Year's Eve bash.

Years prior, Ellis's Army Colonel dad tried to prove Nessie existed, but the adventure resulted in public embarrassment for him.

Ellis hopes his journey will earn him more respect from his dad, who has always judged his son for not being able to enlist in the army due to being colour blind.

Gruen says she wrote half of the book before realizing that Maddie was the heart of it. That meant having to go back and rewrite it in Maddie's voice and then tweak the other characters' reactions to her.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I would set up shop in the corner of a pub and pretend I was Skyping and doing work.
Canadian novelist Sara Gruen, on eavesdropping in Scotland

BABY BABBLE

ScarJo mum on how to be a mom

New mom Scarlett Johansson is not here to give you parenting advice, and she doesn't think any other famous moms should, either.

"I'm such a newbie at this. I always really hate it when actors or people in the spotlight make giant grandiose statements about parenthood because it's so, so personal," she tells the Australian Daily Telegraph.

NED EHRBAR/METRO IN HOLLYWOOD

CELEB CASH GRAB?

Mendes met with criticism over contest

A Shawn Mendes marketing campaign encouraging young fans to buy every single copy of the teen-pop heartthrob's new album from local stores is eliciting outrage from child advocacy groups.

The 16-year-old Toronto native trumpeted the release of Handwritten with a #HandwrittenBuyouts Twitter contest, urging his fans to purchase every last Mendes CD from store shelves.

On Tuesday he tweeted to his nearly three million followers: "Go to stores today & buy all the album copies! U can find a #GoldenShawnAccessPass & meet me! #HandwrittenBuyouts. One devotee tweeted a photo of herself clutching a colourful wad of Canadian bills with the message: "I guess all my babysitting payed (sic) off! :)"

Multiple child advocacy organizations raised questions about the strategy on Wednesday.

"I think that's really concerning, considering his appeal to younger fans," said Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood associate director Josh Golin, who called the campaign "unethical."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

STRIPPED DOWN

Leaking nude pics just his style

Be careful what secrets you tell your friends. That's the lesson One Direction member Harry Styles is learning after pal Ed Sheeran gave a candid interview in which he revealed that Styles leaked his own nude photo back in 2012, despite the fact that Styles denied it at the time. "Did you know that Harry leaked that picture himself? He leaked his own picture. I think that's amazing," Sheeran tells ZM Online.

NED EHRBAR/METRO IN HOLLYWOOD

LEGAL RIGHTS

Cornell wades into Dog ownership fight

Soundgarden frontman Chris Cornell says the co-founder of a famed Seattle recording studio has no claim to own the master tapes of Temple of the Dog, which Cornell recorded with Eddie Vedder and other members of Pearl Jam in 1990.

A&M records sued Raj Parashar, who founded London Bridge Studios with his brother, in March, demanding that Parashar turn over the master tapes. The label says it bought the album in 1991.

Chris Cornell GETTY IMAGES

A&M didn't say in its complaint why it wants the master recordings, but such tapes can be used in re-issuing albums. Next year marks the album's 25th anniversary. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sarah Polley has confirmed reports she is writing a script for an adaptation of Little Women and that she is producing an Alias Grace miniseries. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Polley penning new film script

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Little Women latest project for director

Actress-director Sarah Polley has confirmed reports that she's working on a new big-screen adaptation of Little Women.

"I'm writing Little Women and I'm writing my own film as well," Polley said.

"And then I'm producing Alias Grace as a miniseries, which I've been writing for a long time, and it's now written in six, one-hours and hopefully will go into production either this year or next year," she added, referring to an adaptation of Margaret Atwood's novel.

> **"Writing is something you can do while a baby naps"**
> Sarah Polley

Polley, who got a 2008 Oscar nomination for best adapted screenplay for Away From Her, said she's "always writing."

"Writing is something you can do while a baby naps, so it's perfect," added the mother of two.

"But the idea of going back out into the world and making my own stuff, it's not immediate. My youngest is still seven months, so I'm not jumping back on a film set right away. But it's something that I'm excited to do."

On Tuesday, Polley helped announce the winner of this year's $100,000 Glenn Gould Prize.

She and an esteemed international jury panel picked American composer Philip Glass as the 2015 recipient of the biennial prize, which honours living laureates from a variety of creative disciplines for their body of work.

Polley called the three-time Oscar nominee's work "visionary."

"I think he pushed something that was very avant-garde and on the fringes into the mainstream," she said. "I think he, as a result, opened people's minds musically."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Wedding to-do list: All the small stuff

PLANNING

When thinking big picture, finer details can be missed

Jen Traplin
For Metro

Organization is key. Avoid fretting about all those last-minute details hours before you walk down the aisle. SHUTTERSTOCK

Don't just make lists — make a list of all your lists. SHUTTERSTOCK

When you are planning a wedding, the list of things to do always seems to grow the closer you get to the big day, leaving some couples fretting about those last-minute details.

"What I've noticed is brides tend to get very overwhelmed in the last few months," said wedding planner Elise Schmitz, owner and founder of Toast Special Events in Ottawa.

"Not only do they have all of these details they need to ensure are taken care of, but they have the emotional stress because of family tending to their needs and requests."

Organization, she believes, is key. "I usually suggest to have a list of all your lists."

In her experience, there are three rather substantial details couples tend to forget that end up causing big stress on their big day:

- Checking dietary restrictions for all guests.
- Organizing place cards.
- Including the bride and groom in the total guest count.

Bride-to-be Annaliese Judge and her fiancé, John, have done the majority of the planning themselves, but hired Schmitz as their wedding day co-ordinator to ensure nothing is missed.

"The biggest value that I get out of this is her level-headedness," Judge said. "As a bride, I tend to panic and to fixate on certain things that might actually not be important in the grand scheme of things."

With their wedding just weeks away, Judge said she and her fiancé are trying to make sure everything on their last-minute to-do list is taken care of.

"One of the big things for us is actually the little things," she said.

"You think big picture all throughout the planning process and then you discover there are all these little things that we just hadn't thought of."

Perhaps one of the most important "little things" to take care of, Schmitz said, is packing an emergency bridal kit containing extras like stockings, deodorant and granola bars, among other things.

"You never know what you're going to need," Schmitz said. "I've been called a lifesaver and a god for having a Tide stick."

APPS

Stay organized

TaskRabbit
This app connects you with people in your area who can lend a hand. Simply post a task you need help with and hire the appropriate bidder.

The Knot Wedding Planner
This app acts as your own personal wedding planner, helping to provide inspiration for your wedding, plan the details and book venues.

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Venues sway dress trends

White by Vera Wang Collection. DAVID'S BRIDAL

BRIDAL WEAR

Churches ditched for barns are changing wedding fashion

Jen Traplin
For Metro

When it comes to wedding dress trends in 2015, traditional choices are starting to take a back seat to more bold, unique or even minimalist options.

Dana Alexander-Salares, owner of With Love Bridal Boutique, believes some of the biggest wedding dress trends for this year are the direct result of a dramatic shift in where weddings are now being held — as venues continue to sway away from tradition, she says, so do the dresses.

"Girls are changing their styles because venues have changed so drastically. It's not a church and a banquet hall anymore, it's a barn," she said.

"I would say it's less 'bridal' and more evening-inspired bridal wear. We're starting to see sleek and sexy over ball gown, lots of straps and low backs, beaded sheaths, and the vintage trend is still there."

Alexander-Salares says brides are also starting to look for short dresses or simple, casual options that look couture when paired with unique accessories, like beaded straps, belts and floral wreaths.

Also trending for 2015 are dress options that are a bit more versatile and can be worn again.

Convertible dresses are popular as well — instead of buying two dresses, brides can purchase one that offers a more traditional look for the ceremony and transforms into something that's a bit easier to move around in for the reception.

"We have a lace sheath that has a ball gown overskirt, so it looks like a princess gown, but you take the overlay off and then it's just a straight lace dress," Alexander-Salares said.

Colour is also trendy for 2015 — everything from subtle shades of pink and silver, to bold reds and blues.

For Charmain Kamieth's upcoming Halloween wedding, she opted for a knee-length, ruched satin dress in spice — a gorgeous bright red.

"I wanted something simple, yet classy," she said.

This will be Kamieth's second wedding. Her first was very traditional, she said, including the typical white dress. This time around, she is doing things her way.

"I chose red because I figured it would be more dramatic. It's my day, right? I want to stand out."

Oleg Cassini Collection. DAVID'S BRIDAL

Tulle Headband with Beaded Flowers. DAVID'S BRIDAL

Cut Crystal Tie-Back Headband. DAVID'S BRIDAL

Crystal and Ribbon Side Motif Headband. DAVID'S BRIDAL

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Pineapples, a symbol of hospitality, are a major decor motif this season.

What they're a$king

Many singles and first-time buyers start out with a one-bedroom condo, such as these resale suites. Condos near the downtown cater to professionals with the convenience of a maintenance-free lifestyle. **Duncan McAllister** FOR METRO

OUR CITY

$359,000

Ottawa

This bright one-bedroom plus den at 100 Champagne Ave. S. is listed for $359,900. It's a great location for nightlife in the trendy Little Italy neighbourhood near Dow's Lake. The suite includes parking, a storage locker and a gas hookup for a barbecue on the balcony. There's also an exercise centre and party room. The building is located close to shopping and public transportation. Listing agent is Nick Brunet at Re/Max Affiliates Realty, 613-216-1755.

$364,000

Toronto

Located at the Minto Quantum building in the midtown neighbourhood of Yonge and Eglinton, this one-bedroom suite can be yours for the asking price of $364,900. The unit has bamboo floors throughout, upgraded granite counters and an ensuite locker. The building offers a full range of amenities. Listing agent is Alex J. Wilson at Re/Max Condos Plus, 416-996-5181.

$539,000

Halifax

This 1,000 sq. ft. suite at 1550 Dresden Row is said to reside in one of the nicer downtown buildings. The Martello is near Citadel Hill. The one-bedroom plus den condo has an open concept kitchen-dining-living room with views of Halifax Harbour, and an asking price of $539,000. The listing agent is George Edwards with Royal LePage Atlantic, 902-221-2900.

$179,000

Winnipeg

Here's a contemporary three-storey midrise within walking distance of the University of Manitoba at 1525 Chancellor Dr. The asking price is $179,900. The renovated suite boasts a designer kitchen with stainless-steel appliances, a four-piece bathroom, wood fireplace and a large balcony. Listing agent is Chris Kenny with Re/Max Professionals, 204-899-4858.

$314,000

Calgary

The condos in Westgate Park were built on the previous site of the Westgate Hotel in the community of Spruce Cliff. This suite in the Brava Tower at 55 Spruce Place SW includes a recreation facility and 24-hour concierge. The asking price is $314,900. This unit is just 15 minutes from downtown, says listing agent Ernest Gardy, with Re/Max House of Real Estate, 403-651-3093.

$214,900

Edmonton

Here's a one-bedroom condo that's a five-minute walk from the University of Alberta. The Strathcona House sits atop the river valley at 10883 Saskatchewan Dr. The common areas have been renovated along with the interior of the suite. Listed for $214,900, the unit has 713 sq. ft. of living space and a large balcony. Listing agent Nathan Mol is with Liv Real Estate, 780-722-0086.

$488,000

Vancouver

The Rhapsody is a midrise community on 910 8th Ave. The top floor, private, 797-sq.ft. rooftop apartment has a panoramic view of the city, mountains and water, with an asking price of $488,000. The suite was owned by a young couple who have a baby and are moving to a larger space, says listing agent Pam Allen with Re/Max Real Estate Services, 604-790-8464.

Season with salt to taste ... all over

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes

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2 Detox Dead Sea Bath Salts
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3 RIVSALT
Don't shake — grate. A new way to present salt on the dinner table. $33, Kikkerland.com

4 Villeroy & Boch's Artesano Salt Shaker
Glass, cork and metal combine to complement the modern farm table. $12, TheBay.com

5 Salt In The Air pillow
Dreaming of morning walks on the beach. $145, Eskayel.com

6 Sea Salt and Driftwood Triple-Wick Candle
Close your eyes and inhale yourself to the east coast. $28, Chapters.Indigo.ca

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Design experts suggest fresh decor trends for springtime

With the arrival of spring comes the ritual of seasonal cleaning and the urge by many to refresh their interiors, front porches and backyards. "We've had such a long winter, and everybody's ready for some colour," said Erin McLaughlin, editor-in-chief at Style at Home magazine.

McLaughlin said they're seeing bright splashes of colour, such as a gallery of inexpensive prints in vibrant hues. Yellow is the standout shade for spring and pairs well with grey or black.

"It could be an enamel lampshade; it could be that you're taking an old chandelier and spray-painting it bright, bright yellow," she said. "It's really a hot look right now."

She also suggested teaming a favourite hue with complementary colours, like dark and pale blues paired with a fresh green or yellow accent. McLaughlin recommended homeowners consider painting the front door in a high-gloss colour and updating hardware with brass accents.

There is no shortage of illuminating options which fuse style with function. Among fresh alternatives are colour-changing LED lights, rechargeable LED cubes and a wireless vase with programmable remote available in a variety of hues.

Bright yellows and patterns are a great way to spruce up your space for spring. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HOMESENSE

Homeowners missing the glow of festive lighting can put retro string lights with exposed filament bulbs under an outdoor umbrella or clustered along a fence.

HomeSense spokeswoman Hilary Smyth said florals are showing up on everything from rugs and artwork to tabletop accessories and cushions.

"The key to florals this season is to go bright and bold and pair them with graphic black-and-white stripes or polka dots."

Smyth said block-printed textiles are a decorator favourite, and there are plenty of options for spring with bedding, throw cushions, draperies and placemats in a pretty palette of turquoise, pink, purple and orange.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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In 2015, it's cool to be a homemaker

DIY HOW-TO

Homespun projects huge among the hip

Meghan Poole
Metro in New York City

These days it's hip to be a homemaker.

Turn to any lifestyle blog or site like Pinterest and you'll find savvy twentysomethings and thirtysomethings whipping up gorgeous recipes and tending to their gardens.

"We're rewriting the rules," explains Brit Morin founder of Brit +Co., an online "destination for the DIY generation."

"Many of our grandmothers didn't have the option to have a career. Then our mothers felt a lot of pressure to invest all of their time and energy in their careers. For our generation, we're lucky to have a choice. It's OK to do both, and many of us want to do both."

For those of us wanting to ace it at work and bake a cake from scratch at home, Morin's new book, Homemakers: A Domestic Handbook for the Digital Generation, helps bridge the gap between plugged-in career girl and domestic diva. She shows us how.

Need inspiration? Look no further than your web browser.

"We have access to an incredible amount of information very quickly — take advantage of that," says Morin. "Just as technology has impacted the way we communicate and the way we buy things, it has also transformed the home."

One project she loves is the wireless charging nightstand.

"I love incorporating technology into the home in a seamless fashion," she says.

Everyone is always busy, but your lack of free time shouldn't scare you away from pursuing creative projects. "Homemaking doesn't have to be about spending all of your time at home. You can add personality into your home with small creative projects," Morin says.

Two time-friendly DIYs she recommends are the etched glass tumblers and the balloon backdrop.

"You wouldn't expect glass etching to be as easy as it is," she says. "Plus, these make the perfect personalized gift."

As for the balloon backdrop, "It's one of my favourite party tricks," says Morin. "Simply blow up a bunch of balloons, string them together using fishing line and hang them up in rows on your wall using painter's tape. Simple as that!"

As much as we rely on technology, Morin believes we need to unplug, too.

"Carve out time each week to completely disconnect and get creative," she says. "At Brit + Co we actually take one day each quarter to learn a new creative skill — we call it Creativity Day. People have learned everything from woodworking to cheese making.

"Modern homemaking is putting your own personal spin on the concept of creating a home and pursuing your interests, and for everyone that's a bit different," Morin says.

Brit Morin runs a website devoted to domestic projects.
GETTY IMAGES

> **"Modern homemaking is putting your own personal spin on the concept of creating a home and pursuing your interests."**
> Brit Morin, founder of Brit +Co.

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metro SPORTS

Canada coach Jay Triano expects Andrew Wiggins to play in the Pan Am Games

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Tomas Plekanec, left, celebrates his goal with Habs teammate Alex Galchenyuk on Wednesday night in Montreal. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sens come out on wrong end of wild Game 1

NHL PLAYOFFS

Ottawa's luck runs out quick as Canadiens take opener

Brian Flynn's goal was the winner at the end of a wild second period that saw five goals scored and star defenceman P.K. Subban ejected for slashing as the Montreal Canadiens downed the Ottawa Senators 4-3 in the opening game of their NHL playoff series on Wednesday night.

Montreal takes a 1-0 lead in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference series into Game 2 on Friday night.

The emotion-filled match featured the first goals as Canadiens by late-season pick-ups Flynn and Torrey Mitchell while Tomas Plekanec and Lars Eller also scored for Montreal.

Milan Michalek, Kyle Turris and Mika Zibanejad scored for Ottawa.

The Bell Centre crowd was roaring until Michalek got credit for the opening goal at 12:25, which was put into the net by Montreal defenceman Andrei Markov. A rebound off the end boards got by two players and Markov tried to tuck it into Carey Price's pads when it went in.

The game broke open when the Canadiens scored twice in a 15 second span of the second frame, the fastest two playoff goals by Montreal since May 8, 1998, with Mitchell and Plekanec scoring.

But only six seconds later, Eller went off for slashing. Seven seconds after that, Subban took a chop at Mark Stone's hands and the Senators scoring leader went down in apparent pain and rushed off for treatment. Subban was slapped with a five-minute major and game misconduct.

The Senators scored twice through Turris and Zibanejad and conceded a short-handed goal to Eller during the penalty.

Then Flynn came out of a corner and slid the puck past Hammond to give Montreal the lead with 2:43 left in the period.

Stone, who went into the playoffs on a nine-game points streak, returned to play, left again late in the second period, then returned midway through the third frame.

It was a shaky game for Ottawa goalie Andrew Hammond, who got his team into the playoffs by going 20-1-2 down the stretch. Shots were 39-33 in Montreal's favour.

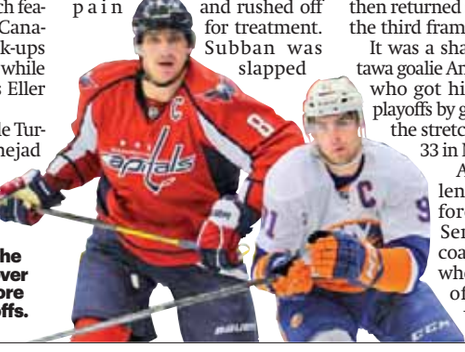
A moment of silence was held before the game for Senators assistant coach Mark Reeds, who died this week of cancer at 55.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of the Islanders' 4-1 win over the Capitals and more from the NHL playoffs.

GAME 1 In Montreal

4 CANADIENS	3 SENATORS



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Jury finds Hernandez guilty

TRIAL

First-degree murder earns ex-NFL star life in prison

Former New England Patriots star Aaron Hernandez was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison Wednesday for a deadly late-night shooting, sealing the downfall of an athlete who once had a $40-million contract and a standout career ahead of him.

Hernandez, 25, who had been considered one of the top tight ends in professional football, shook his head, pursed his lips and sat down after the jury forewoman pronounced him guilty in the slaying of Odin Lloyd, a 27-year-old landscaper and amateur weekend football player who was dating the sister of Hernandez's fiancée.

Hernandez's mother, Terri, and his fiancée, Shayanna Jenkins, cried and gasped when they heard the verdict. Hernandez, his eyes red, mouthed to them: "Be strong. Be strong."

Aaron Hernandez listens as the guilty verdict is read during his murder trial in Fall River, Mass., Wednesday. DOMINICK REUTER/POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The former football pro was also found guilty on both weapons charges he faced.

"The jury found that he was just a man who committed a brutal murder," District Attorney Thomas Quinn said after the verdict. "The fact that he was a professional athlete meant nothing in the end."

36

The jury deliberated for 36 hours before rendering its verdict

Lloyd was shot six times early on June 17, 2013, in a deserted industrial park near Hernandez's home in North Attleborough. The motive has never been explained.

Police almost immediately zeroed in on the former Pro Bowl athlete because they found in Lloyd's pocket the key to a car the NFL player had rented. Within hours of Hernandez's arrest, the Patriots cut him from the team. The team declined to comment on the verdict.

Prosecutors presented a wealth of evidence that Hernandez was with Lloyd at the time he was killed, including home security video from Hernandez's mansion, witness testimony and cellphone records that tracked Lloyd's movements.

Hernandez's lawyer, James Sultan, acknowledged for the first time during closing arguments that Hernandez was there when Lloyd was killed.

But the attorney pinned the shooting on two of Hernandez's friends, Ernest Wallace and Carlos Ortiz, saying his client was a "23-year-old kid" who witnessed a shocking crime and did not know what to do. Wallace and Ortiz will stand trial later.

Hernandez faces further legal trouble: he is awaiting trial on murder charges in a 2012 Boston drive-by shooting. He is accused of gunning down two men over a spilled drink at a nightclub. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KEY MOMENTS

Jury's road trip

Midway through the trial, jurors boarded a bus to tour key spots in the case, including Hernandez's home, the street where the victim lived and the spot where his body was found. Hernandez's mansion is a mile from the crime scene.

Tears for a son

Lloyd's mother, Ursula Ward, wept quietly at times during the trial. Overcome with emotion, she would sometimes leave the courtroom in tears when jurors were shown graphic photos of her 27-year-old son's body. Before Ward testified, Superior Court Judge Susan Garsh ordered her not to cry on the stand.

The verdict

The verdict came early on the seventh day of jury deliberations. He was automatically sentenced to life in prison without parole.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE BARCA ON SEMIFINAL DOORSTEP
Barcelona's Neymar attempts an overhead kick against Paris Saint Germain's Gregory van der Wiel during the first leg of their Champions League matchup in Paris on Wednesday. Lionel Messi set up Neymar's opener and Luis Suarez scored twice to give Barcelona a 3-1 win that leaves the four-time champion with one foot in the semifinals. CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Mosquito-borne disease hits Brazilian soccer clubs

Brazilian soccer teams are on alert because of a dengue fever outbreak that has already affected some of the country's top clubs. Three players were diagnosed with the mosquito-borne disease this week, including Corinthians striker Paolo Guerrero. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Phelps wants to compete at the Rio Olympics

Michael Phelps is aiming to compete in a fifth Olympics next year in Rio, although the 18-time Olympic champion won't swim in the world championships this summer. Phelps confirmed his intention to make one last run at the Olympics on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Nash: Injuries eased me into retirement

Suffering through three injury-plagued seasons in Los Angeles is not exactly how Steve Nash wanted to end his professional basketball career, but his tough time with the Lakers actually allowed him to make a seamless transition into life after the NBA.

The 41-year-old from Victoria retired last month to cap an illustrious 19-year career that included eight all-star appearances, seven nominations to the All-NBA team and consecutive MVP awards. Nash left the league as its all-time leading free-throw shooter and third overall in assists.

10,335

Nash's total career NBA assists, which ranks third

An assortment of injuries limited Nash to just 65 games over his final three NBA seasons with the Lakers. He suffered a broken leg in just his second game with the club and missed 24 contests, then suited up just 15 times in the 2013-14 campaign.

Back and nerve issues prevented Nash from playing at all this season but the six-foot, 195-pound point guard said the extended downtime proved to be a blessing in disguise.

"I think that really helped me in kind of an odd way," said Nash, in town Wednesday for a youth basketball program. "It was painful and difficult for me but at the same time it did give me a little perspective and closure when I came to the end of 18 months and realized I can't do this.

"I kind of feel fortunate for that because I could've been in a pretty devastating place if I had abruptly found the end was there."

But while Nash is no longer playing basketball, he's certainly not out of the game. He remains the general manager of Canada's national men's team and hopes to get involved in the marketing and promotion of the program.

"That's an important component of our program because we don't have a lot of resources," Nash said. "We live in the best country in the world and we give our money to a lot of great places but it leaves us with the responsibility of trying to raise it ourselves with our program for the most part.

"So yeah, I'm here, I'm working and enjoying it. I just want to see our kids thrive because of it." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Steve Nash played 65 games over his final three NBA seasons with the Lakers. GETTY IMAGES FILE

RECIPE Potato Rosto with Sunny Side Up Egg and Smoked Salmon

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman

A delicious root vegetable patty served with a sunny side up egg and smoked salmon makes a great light dinner served alongside a large tossed salad.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Line a baking sheet with foil and spray with vegetable oil.

2. Squeeze out all moisture from grated potatoes. Add to bowl along with onion, flour, salt and pepper. Make 6 large potato pancakes on baking pan. Spray with vegetable oil and bake for 20 minutes, turning over after 15 minutes.

3. In two large skillets sprayed with vegetable oil, crack 6 whole eggs and cook sunny side up, just until whites are cooked and yolk is still slightly loose.

4. Divide yogurt over potato cake, then add smoked salmon and carefully place one egg over each pancake.

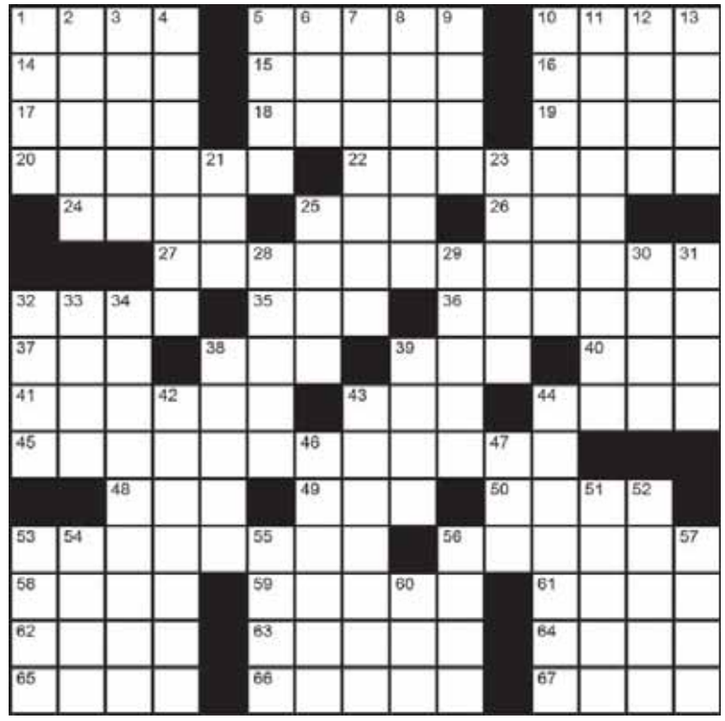
Ingredients
Serves 6
- 4 cups peeled grated baking potato (approximately 2 – 12 oz potatoes)
- 6 eggs, divided
- ¼ cup grated onion
- 2 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- Salt and pepper
- 2 Tbsp plain Greek yogurt
- 2 oz diced smoked salmon

Nutritional information per serving (1 pancake)
- Calories 158
- Carbohydrates 14.4 g
- Fibre 1.2 g
- Protein 9 g
- Fat 5 g
- Saturated fat 1.5 g
- Cholesterol 200 mg
- Sodium 232 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Stitches-needing reason
5. Chump
10. Plane travel needs [abbr.]
14. Choir voice
15. Leading
16. Canadiens, to NHL fans
17. Vending machine opening
18. Laissez-_
19. Genetic messengers, commonly
20. _ of smoke
22. Formidable frozen formations
24. No, in Munich
25. Tea, in Taboussac
26. Religious robe
27. Newfoundland's insect-eating provincial flower: 2 wds.
32. Answers/fixers of problems, for short
35. Blood-typing letters
36. Magic _ (Mr. Clean product)
37. _ pro nobis (Pray for us, in Latin)
38. Suffix with 'Second'
39. Ms. Babilonia of figure skating
40. Payer's pledge
41. Sleeveless cardigan/jacket alternative
43. Rumer's 2015 DWTS pro partner
44. Ms. Heche
45. Endeavour _ Vents (Marine Protected Area offshore from Vancouver Island)
48. Composer's li'l output
49. Excavated material
50. Home theatre purchases
53. "Where the Sun Don't Shine" Ottawa-born singer, _ Maria
56. Quibbles
58. La _ (Weather-affecting phenomenon in the equatorial Pacific)
59. Wild dog of Australia
61. Old World buffalo
62. Performed perfectly
63. Finished
64. High-pitched barks
65. Put forward an idea
66. Playing marble material, perhaps
67. Ladies

DOWN
1. "Egad!" sound interpretation
2. "_ the Family": 2 wds.
3. Shoulder scarf
4. "M*A*S*H" character, '_ _' Houlihan
5. Pretoria, _. _.
6. Steeped beverage
7. Disney animated movie work song
8. Actress Ms. Matlin
9. Ancient concert sites
10. 1975 Ali/Frazier bout nickname, _ in Manila
11. Body of water between Nunavut's Ellesmere Island and Greenland: 2 wds.
12. Alpiner's ascending aid
13. Leaky balloon sounds
21. Tropical cuckoo
23. Calf-length pant
25. Frozen dessert chain [acronym]
28. Psychic fair card
29. Domain
30. City sign's light
31. "_ Blue" by Madonna
32. Student status, shortly
33. '_ _ Plata' (Montana's state motto)
34. Cause that Princess Diana was involved in towards the end of her life
38. "..._ _ of golden daffodils..." - Wordsworth
39. Weight allowance
42. Movement/campaign
43. Porch
44. "Archie, Marry Me" band from Toronto
46. Perfecting
47. Oklahoma city
51. Singer Ms. Washington
52. Slippery _
53. Start to 'sack' (Backpack)
54. Puerto's partner
55. Concept
56. Encrypt
57. Back talk
60. Understand

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
The approaching new moon puts you in the mood to have fun, so make sure you get whatever work you have to do out of the way before the weekend.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
The most important thing now is that you make a serious effort to look on the bright side, no matter what may occur. Sometimes you have a tendency to fear the worst but today, tomorrow and over the weekend it's going to be all good.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You will find it easier to work with other people today, and they will find it easier to work with you. If there is anything you have fallen out over recently then now is the time to discuss your differences.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Some things are personal and some things are business. Do you know how to tell them apart? Try not to get upset about things that are not aimed at you directly.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
If you have been a bit under the weather of late don't worry about it. In a matter of days you will be back to your best and looking and feeling like a million dollars.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Yes, you have been living beyond your means. Yes, you have been wasting your resources on things you don't really need. But the fact that you can admit that to yourself means there is hope. Be more responsible as from today.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will make new friends over the next few days but you will make an enemy or two as well. Don't let that worry you though as, on balance, you will come out way ahead.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Get a grip on your working routine and make sure you are not doing things for other people that they should be doing for themselves. The approaching new moon will help you get rid of the hangers-on – of which there are plenty!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You need to be adventurous and you need to be courageous but most of all you need to truly believe that you have what it takes to be the biggest and the best. Think you can do all that? Then you can do anything. So do it!

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Family matters will be even more important than usual over the next few days and you will have to make allowances for loved ones and relatives who get emotional for no good reason. Unlike you they are lacking in self-control.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Try not to see each and every situation you face as a battle to be won or lost. People are not the enemy, not even those people whose views and opinions you despise. Try talking to them instead of shouting at them today.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Watch what you spend today or tomorrow or you may have nothing left come the weekend, and that would be a shame as the planets suggest there will be a last-minute invitation to a party or a social event you won't want to miss.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	6	9						3
3			4					
2					1			
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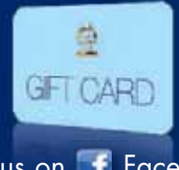

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